

TODAY

WHY I GAVE LABOUR HALF A MILLION

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THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

DOES NO ONE WANT TO MANAGE MANCHESTER CITY?

David Maddock on an unwanted job PAGE 44



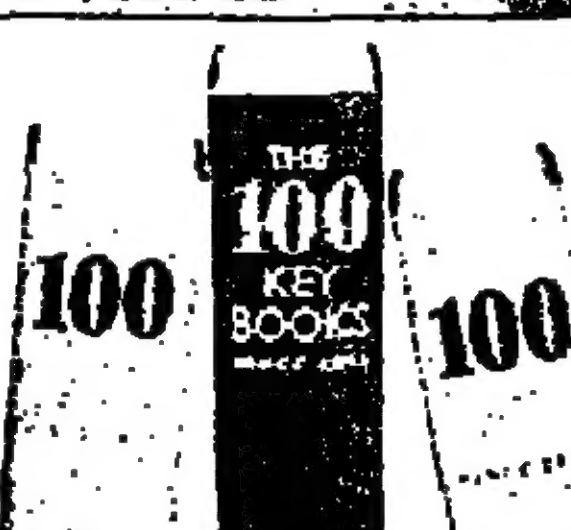
DRIVING FORCE

Laura Davies tees up for the Solheim Cup PAGES 41, 44



TOMORROW

THE 100 KEY BOOKS SINCE 1945



Church hit by fresh scandal as second woman and son come out of shadows

Runaway RC bishop has son aged 15

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church faced renewed controversy last night with the revelation that its runaway bishop, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, has a 15-year-old son from a previous relationship.

The boy, Kevin, was born after Bishop Wright had an affair with Joanne Whibley, now living in Polegate, East Sussex. The Bishop, then a priest, met Miss Whibley when he was instructing her in the Roman Catholic faith after she became engaged to a Catholic.

The disclosure was made on BBC television after Miss Whibley approached them to unburden herself "and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist".

The news came on the day that the Pope accepted the Bishop's resignation, which was submitted on Sunday. It is particularly damaging because the Church cannot now claim that the Bishop's supposed relationship with Mrs Kathleen MacPhee, with whom he is now apparently hiding, was an isolated affair.

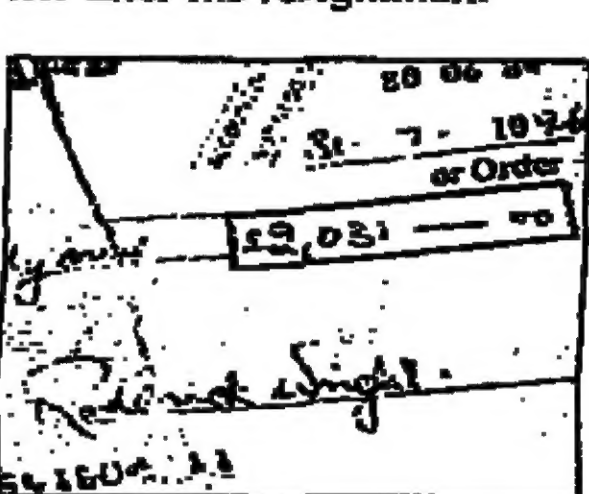
Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the 4.4 million Catholics in England and Wales, professed himself "shocked and saddened" by the affair, which he knew nothing about until seeing the news on television.

The Catholic Church in Scotland, already reeling from Bishop Wright's unexpected disappearance, was dismayed but also discredited by the revelation.

It acknowledged immediately that Kevin Whibley was Bishop Wright's child, and a Church spokesman confessed that it was one of the main

reasons for Bishop Wright's resignation. At a press conference earlier this week, Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow, had given no hint of the scandal.

The bishop is believed to have known Mrs MacPhee, a divorced mother of three, for 20 years. Some understanding had been extended to him by sympathetic parishioners and churchgoers in Scotland, who felt pity for a man who had forsaken all to be with the woman he loved. However, this is likely to be short-lived after Miss Whibley's statement that she was expecting him to go to Sussex to live with her after his resignation.



The bishop's cheque

The disclosure has taken the debate on celibacy in the Catholic Church into a different league. The Church must now confront the possibility that there may be many other children fathered by priests, whose mothers are placed under similar pressure not to go public for fear of jeopardising a priest's career.

Miss Whibley, 48, said that although she met the then Father Wright when she was engaged, the affair did not begin until later.

"I am quite sure there are other women in relationships with priests who would want to end the secret lives," she

said. In a tearful interview she said she had confronted her lover, but he said he could not acknowledge being the father of her child. He threatened to go and live in Peru if she forced him to confess.

"I have lived a lie and so has he," she said. "I was really so shocked. He eventually became more committed to resigning and told me that he would try to make amends for the hurt that he had caused us and if he would resign and come to live with us we could try to salvage something."

Bishop Wright was said to have been in contact with her as recently as July, when she received a cheque.

Miss Whibley, evidently distraught at the secret she has carried for 15 years, said: "I must unburden myself and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist."

She added: "Although Kevin knows it's his dad and Roddy knows he's his dad, he has been an absent father. Kevin still needs the fact to be known that that's his dad."

"I would not want this trivialised, this pathetic story. I would want it to serve some purpose." Asked what the bishop had said when news of the pregnancy first emerged, she said: "First of all he said he needed a few days to think about that. And after that few days he asked me what my plans were and he said that he couldn't acknowledge being the father of Kevin."

She has kept handwritten letters from the bishop. In one he talks of his feelings of guilt. She also had a cheque from him for £2,031, which was torn into pieces, and a key fob with

Continued on page 2, col 7



Joanne Whibley: "I must unburden myself and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist"



Bishop Wright, who is still in hiding, and his son Kevin, who said that he felt awkward when he met his father



Maxwell walks free as judge throws out case

By FRANCES GIBB AND JON ASHWORTH

THE Government will face renewed pressure to review trial by jury in complex fraud cases after a judge halted the second Maxwell trial yesterday amid stinging criticisms of the prosecuting authorities.

Kevin Maxwell walked free after Mr Justice Buckley blocked a second trial on charges relating to the collapse of his father's media empire nearly five years ago with total losses of more than £800 million.

The decision, ending nearly five years of legal proceedings which have cost taxpayers between £25 to £30 million, immediately raised serious doubts about the future of the Serious Fraud Office. The SFO investigated and prosecuted the collapse of the Maxwell publishing empire after Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991.

Condemning the SFO decision to bring a second trial, Mr Justice Buckley threw out the remaining charges against Kevin Maxwell and three other defendants. To launch "another long trial at enormous expense would run a grave risk of suggesting to the public that the authorities did not accept the verdict of a jury".

The ruling met with anger from Maxwell pensioners and Labour MPs who questioned the future handling of serious fraud cases, the role of juries in fraud trials and the regulation of City institutions.

Both Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney General, and George Staple, Director of the SFO, would back a review of fraud trials which could lead to juries being scrapped. The alternative could be a judge sitting with a panel of experts.

Outside court, Kevin Maxwell hailed the outcome as a "victory for common sense" which meant he could return home "without the Sword of Damocles hanging over his head. Standing arm-in-arm with his brother Ian he declared: "The verdict now stands. We are innocent men." The Maxwell brothers were

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Fears over Pill

Women in their late twenties are abandoning the Pill because of fears about side-effects. The proportion of women aged 25 to 29 taking it is down by more than a fifth since 1993, a survey has found. PAGE 7

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Clarke backs grandees in Tory rift

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE Tory party is again caught up in a ferocious war over Europe after its leading Euro-sceptics turned on the grandees who warned John Major that he must keep open the option of joining a single currency.

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, dubbed the six elder statesmen, who included a former prime minister, deputy prime minister, and three foreign secretaries, "dinosaurs". Friends of John Redwood called them "Dad's Army", and other sceptics accused them of endangering party unity in the run-up to

next month's conference. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and leading pro-European in the Cabinet, adds fuel to the fire with a newspaper interview published today in which he echoes the warnings of the grandees and says Britain's self-interest depends on it keeping alive the possibility of joining the single currency.

But of deeper concern to ministers are signs that the pro-Europeans, whose warning yesterday to Mr Major marked the culmination of a carefully planned two-month campaign, have decided to mount an all-out effort to preserve the Cabinet compro-

mise of refusing to rule out a single currency and to prevent the recent Euro-sceptic shift of the Government deepening.

This comes as the Right mobilises for the party conference, heartened by a flood of motions displaying deep and bitter hostility towards the European Union.

Ministerial hopes that party differences would be buried in the run-up to the election appear to have been dashed. In an uncharacteristically fierce interview Douglas Hurd, one of the three former foreign secretaries who signed the appeal calling for Mr Major to give no further

ground to the sceptics, said he and his allies would no longer "shut up" in the interests of party unity. The other signatories were Sir Edward Heath, Lord Whitelaw, the former deputy prime minister, Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner and former Cabinet minister, and two other former foreign secretaries, Lord Howe of Aberavon and Lord Carrington.

Mr Hurd accused the Right of trying to "bully" Mr Major

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Seven more Korean submariners killed

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN a scene reminiscent of a deadly Cold War drama, seven more North Koreans were killed by South Korean security forces yesterday as they emerged from a submarine and came ashore on a beach in the South.

This brings to 18 the number of people shot dead — 11 in an apparent mass suicide — as tension between the two countries has increased in the past few days. Those killed yesterday, dressed in jeans and sneakers made in South Korea, were cut down by automatic fire as they crouched

near a stream to drink water, according to military sources in Kangnung.

At a Cabinet meeting Kim Young Sam, the South Korean President, denounced the incident as the most serious infiltration since the 1960s and said it was an act of "military provocation".

Meanwhile, thousands of police, accompanied by dogs, were patrolling the coastline. Several infiltrators are believed to have fled to nearby mountains.

Bugled spy raid, page 12

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"... treat; funny, touching and delightful. The film should make Gwyneth Paltrow a front-runner for best actress at next year's Oscars."

CHRISTOPHER YOCKEY - THE DAILY MAIL

"...delightful! Gwyneth Paltrow perfectly captures the spirit of Emma - an Oscar-worthy turn that, like the movie itself, is utterly charming"

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emma

A new comedy from Jane Austen's timeless classic

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran Aid is banned in Britain

The Charity Commission last night banned Iran Aid from fundraising in Britain after complaints that its collectors had used strong-arm tactics to gain donations. There were claims that volunteers had stopped pedestrians and demanded minimum £75 donations. On other occasions collectors went round houses showing pictures of torture victims. Once inside, they would refuse to leave unless given a substantial donation.

Iran Aid will not be able to resume fundraising until it convinces the commission it has introduced proper controls and training of volunteers. The charity's accounts will also be scrutinised.

Smuggling bill

Tobacco and drink bootleggers could be costing Britain £770 million a year in lost excise duty, a government survey says. The smugglers are exploiting reduced checks at European Union frontiers and new rules on allowances for personal use.

The figures were calculated after a survey last June of travellers returning through southern and eastern ports.

Body in blanket

The body of a woman has been found wrapped in a blanket on a patch of grass near flats in Clapham, south London. Janice Fields, 37, who was deaf and dumb, was reported missing from her home in Tulse Hill, south London, on Monday.

Police said the body had been on the grass for some time but passers-by thought it was a vagrant sleeping.

Strike suspended

Strike action on the InterCity West Coast line, due to take place today and Monday, has been suspended. All strikes planned for the weekend on other lines have now been called off. The Rail and Maritime Transport union confirmed. The next industrial action by ticket collectors and conductors over pay and conditions has been set for September 28.

Boy is freed

A 17-year-old boy faced conscription into the Iranian Army when he was seized after visiting relatives in Iran returned home safely last night. Reza Afshar, an A-level student in High Wycombe, who was born in Britain, was travelling on an Iranian passport with his sister Sara and their mother Farideh, 43.

Foreign ship used

A foreign-owned ferry will enter service at the end of October with the recently formed Joint Rapid Deployment Force. The 17,500-ton *Sea Crusader*, which will carry heavy equipment, will be manned by Royal Fleet Auxiliary crew.

Open longer

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club has decided to increase the length of the Old Course at St Andrews by about 200 yards for the millennium Open Championship. Tees will be moved, and some new ones built, because technical advances in equipment and increased physical fitness have allowed professional players to drive over the most feared hazards.

Maxwell ruling: Serious Fraud Office criticised for pursuing second trial

Judge wants end to 'prosecute at any price' policy

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE judge who halted the case against Kevin Maxwell told the prosecuting authorities that they must not be allowed to pursue a defendant without heed to the high public costs or disruption to the person's family life and career.

Mr Justice Buckley ruled that another long, multi-million-pound trial would outrage the public and risk suggesting that the authorities did not accept the first jury's verdict. This would "test both the public's confidence and the integrity of the system".

He said that it would appear that the authorities were "determined to pursue the defendant at whatever cost to the public purse, court time or disruption of the defendant's personal life, business or professional career. That must not happen."

The judge concluded: "I have reached a very clear view

that these proceedings serve no further public interest." Formal acquittals were entered and he ordered the defendants' costs to be paid out of public funds.

He said that the most serious charges — the alleged misuse of pension funds — had gone before a jury and the defendants had been acquitted. "To override all consideration for the defendants and their families and what they must have endured and to launch another long trial at enormous expense would run a grave risk of suggesting to the public that the authorities did not accept the verdict of a jury. I do not propose to run that risk."

A second trial would also be "unfair, so unfair as to amount to an abuse of power of the court".

He singled out evidence from Pandora Maxwell, Kevin Maxwell's wife, as to the effect

on their family. "Her obvious distress was, I am convinced, entirely genuine. I cannot be overinfluenced by such matters, but no one could have been unmoved by her evidence."

In what was seen as strong criticism of the Serious Fraud Office for bringing the second prosecution, the judge also said that indictments should be severed only in exceptional cases. The aim should be to achieve one trial covering the essential criminality alleged. If the jury then acquitted, it should be unusual to hold a second trial.

The first prosecution followed the discovery, after Robert Maxwell's death, that £400 million was missing from the Mirror Group pension fund. The trial judge, Mr Justice Phillips, ruled that two of the ten charges should form the basis of the first trial after all parties agreed that the full ten were unmanageable.

Then, a week after the acquittals of all defendants, the SFO announced it was going ahead with outstanding counts involving the alleged misuse of £100 million of Berlitz International shares, prompting accusations from Kevin Maxwell that it was pursuing a "vendetta".

Yesterday, Mr Justice Buckley said he accepted the argument of defence counsel that the charges in the original indictment involved one course of criminal conduct. With the two charges relating to pension funds, the prosecution had "put its best foot forward, within the limits of manageability".

The trial judge, who is now Lord Justice Phillips, had clearly considered that the pension fund charges constituted a fair presentation of the real dishonesty or fraud alleged by the prosecution.

"In my judgment," Mr Justice Buckley said, "he was correct."

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Quest for millions, page 27



Kevin Maxwell, left, and his brother Ian after hearing Mr Justice Buckley's judgment yesterday

Sons exploit father's eastern promise

BY JON ASHWORTH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

ROBERT MAXWELL'S impressive face gazed from the front row of Court 13 at the High Court as his youngest son, Kevin, was told his legal ordeal over.

The late media tycoon was depicted on the front cover of a biography fittingly titled *Maxwell: The Final Verdict*. Four years, three months and one day after Kevin and Ian Maxwell's arrests, the Honourable Mr Justice Buckley had taken five seconds to end the affair.

A murmur of surprise greeted the judge's comments that, had Robert Maxwell himself been in court, he would probably have received less than the ten years' maximum sentence. As it is, his influence continues to prevail over Kevin and Ian from beyond the grave, just as he dominated them when alive. Robert

Maxwell made much of his early fortune in the former Soviet Union, where he boasted of contacts at the highest level. Today, his sons are using those contacts to good effect — through their role as consultants to Westbourne Consultants, a London-based organisation which does extensive work in the former Soviet Union. Westbourne is run by Jean Baddeley, Robert Maxwell's former long-serving personal assistant, who has afforded Kevin and Ian a measure of dignity during the long months since their father's death in November 1991.

A Russian satellite television channel and a telecommunications venture are among projects being pursued by the pair, who use their marketing and financial skills in advising companies.



Robert Maxwell: his influence persists

Westbourne is a consultant to *Maximor's Companion*, the guide to prominent people in Russia. It has also been linked with the English-language Moscow *Tribune* newspaper.

Both brothers have travelled to the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe in

the course of their work for Westbourne. Kevin has been seen in Moscow and is known to have visited industrial cities in Siberia and Kazakhstan. Earlier in the year, they were trying to raise Western financial backing for a national satellite service, carrying a mixture of films, news and sport. Mrs Baddeley said the project was progressing.

Kevin and Ian would continue to work for her for the time being, Mrs Baddeley said, although they were clearly now free to pursue other opportunities. Mrs Baddeley had benefited from the Maxwells' skill and expertise — for considerably less than they would normally be able to charge. She uses nine or ten consultants on a regular basis. She welcomed yesterday's ruling, saying: "I've always had the highest regard for the family. I've seen the boys grow up."

Trial thrown out

Continued from page 1
cleared of a £122 million pensions fraud in January, at the conclusion of a 131-day trial. But the SFO decided to press on with a second trial, saying a huge tranche of fraud remained untried.

Mr Staple, who took the decision to proceed, hit back at yesterday's ruling, warning it had "serious implications" for the prosecution of the largest and most complex criminal cases. But Keith Oliver, Kevin Maxwell's solicitor, said: "There comes a time when a just system has to say, enough is enough and that you cannot prosecute an individual any further."

Pandora Maxwell, Kevin's wife, whose account of her children's suffering had a pivotal effect on Mr Justice Buckley's ruling, told of her "enormous relief" and added: "The Serious Fraud Office should realise this is not a

game. It is real people and real people's lives."

The judge's ruling leaves open the problem of how any future large fraud should be handled. John Wood, former director of the Serious Fraud Office, has recently called for a look at the Hong Kong system where there are only half a dozen jurors, who must have attained a certain educational level. Anne Rafferty, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, agreed that the decision raised difficulties for the prosecution. But the failure to secure convictions could not be regarded as a failure of the jury system "unless you regard every defendant as guilty".

Certainly, Mr Justice Buckley made it clear yesterday that if there are failings in the criminal justice system, neither Kevin Maxwell, nor any other defendant, should be the scapegoat.

Hurd widens rift

Continued from page 1
and the Cabinet into a tougher line against Brussels. He told *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 that pro-Europeans who until now had been afraid of "rocking the boat" would no longer stay silent.

Mr Hurd said newspaper headlines over Europe showed how "skewed" the debate had become. "We have seen this over and over again. The Government sets out a view. Some of the sceptics attack it. Everybody else is expected to stay quiet. If we speak our minds, we are told: 'Oh, you must not rock the boat.' We have passed that point now."

Tony Blair exploited the row last night. He told a forum organised by *The Times* and *Diltons*: "Today we have heard some distinguished senior Conservatives trying to stop the mad rush of today's Tory party towards leaving Europe. But as long as there is no leadership from the top, the Government will be paralysed."

There was immediate relief for the enthusiasts and disappointment for the sceptics

when Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, told a Westminster press conference that the decision to leave it to a future government to decide whether to sign up to a single currency was clear and would not change.

Mr Lamont accused the grandees of seeing fit to "undermine the Foreign Secretary's position". He said: "The truth is that these people have lost the argument. The reality is that a Conservative government will not take us into a single currency and they should recognise that."

John Redwood backed Mr Rifkind for saying that monetary union was dividing Europe and contradicted the idea of the grandees that Britain should be involved in planning for a single currency. He said: "I want us to be influential around the table by saying this scheme is not working and a large number of countries won't be able to join."

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Crime figures rise again after three years of decline

BY RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

CRIME in England and Wales has risen by about 2 per cent, seriously damaging the Government's claim to be turning the tide on law and order.

Michael Howard will attempt to put an optimistic gloss on the increase when he unveils the latest figures for recorded crime from the country's 43 police forces next week. The rise in crimes reported in the 12 months to the end of June reverses recent trends in which recorded offences fell for three successive years.

The latest figures — more than five million offences in a year — are a deep disappointment to the Home Secretary and an embarrassment to the Government on the eve of the last Conservative Party conference before the general election. Figures for the second half of 1995 showed that there were 42,700 more recorded

crimes than in the first six months and the upward trend in crime continued during the early months of this year. Property crime was falling but personal and violent crime was rising.

Mr Howard, who has spent more than three years attempting to regain the initiative on law and order, said earlier this year when trends suggested crime was rising again that he could not guarantee the downward trend would continue.

In Merseyside, recorded crime in rose by 9.263 offences or 6.5 per cent compared with the previous 12 month period. Total violent crime rose by 13.6 per cent to 12,517 offences, including robberies by 46.2 per cent to 3,252 and violent attacks by 6.9 per cent to 8,388, although sexual offences dropped by 6.8 per cent to 877. Domestic burglaries fell by 2.2 per cent to 20,157 and other

burglaries dropped by 4 per cent to 12,162.

The Home Secretary will highlight good news from the Metropolitan Police where recorded crime is continuing to fall and figures from Northumbria showing the number of crimes falling by 11.5 per cent between January and June 1996 compared with the same period in 1995.

In Northumbria domestic burglaries fell by 13 per cent to 11,163, other burglaries by 18.3 per cent to 11,289, and criminal damage by 12.9 per cent to 11,989. Common assault fell by 10 per cent and the overall fall in crimes of violence was 7 per cent. But robberies increased by 7.1 per cent.

Recorded crime fell in England and Wales by 2.4 per cent in 1995, following a drop of 5 per cent in 1993 and 1 per cent in 1994, the third time this century that there were falls in three consecutive years.

Bishop has son

Continued from page 1
a picture of a young Roderick Wright on one side and her son on the other.

Kevin Whibley was born in 1981 — nine years before his father was appointed Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and shortly after he was moved from a parish in Fort William to become parish priest in South Uist, in Scotland's Western Isles.

Kevin, a good-looking, dark-haired young man with a striking resemblance to the Bishop, said: "I haven't seen him for more than two months all put together in my whole life. And it's been useless then because I was really awkward talking to him. I could not speak to him and he did not speak to me particularly much. I realise I have lost a lot through not having a father here. It wasn't necessary, and it should not happen to many children, as I am sure it does."

Father Sean MacAulay, an Oran priest who lives next door to the bishop's house, said he heard about the son only last night. He had not spoken to any members of the

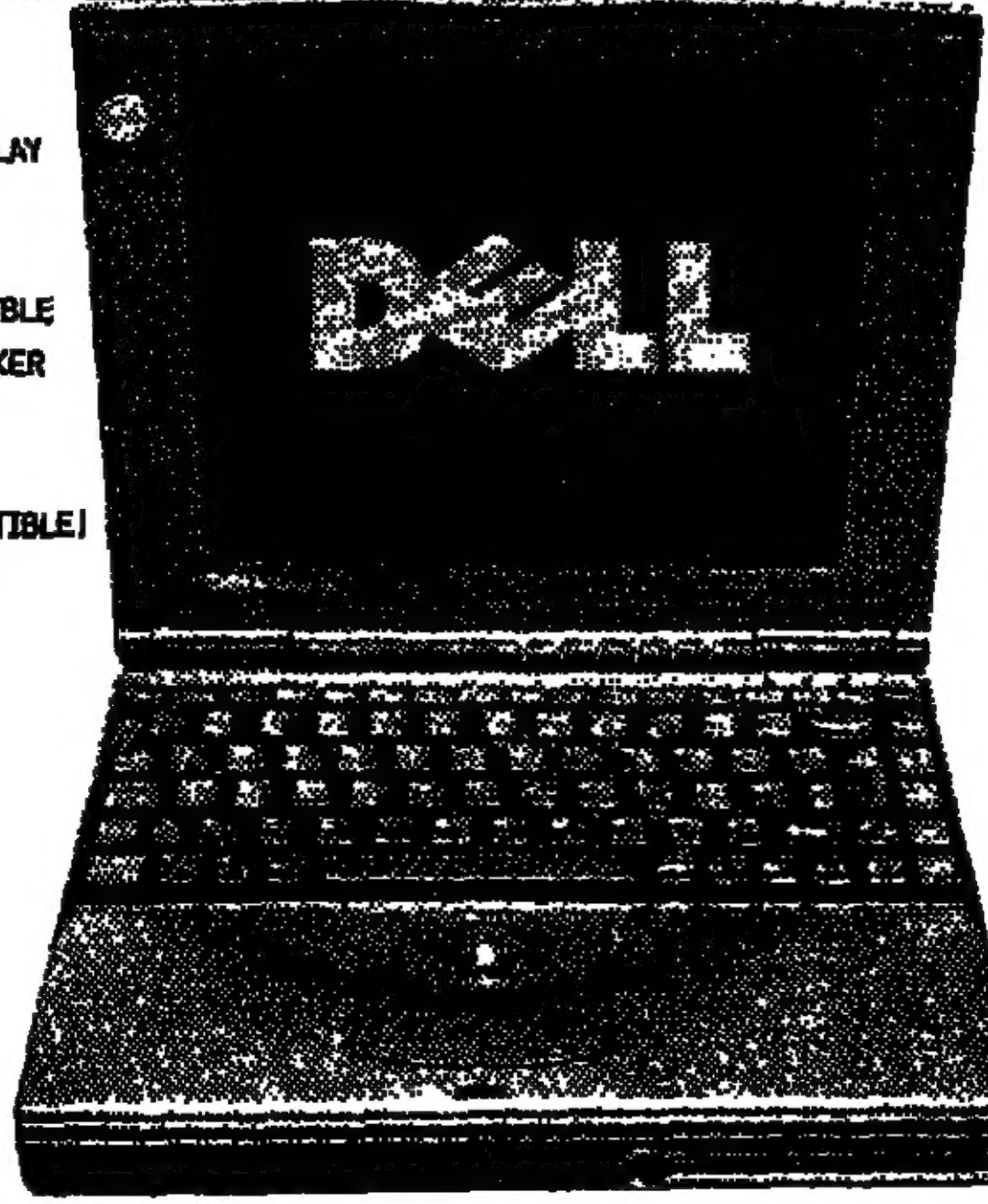
congregation and did not know what their reaction was, but he would ask for them to pray for the former bishop at mass.

"I think he needs our prayers more than ever," he said. "It is scandalous, there is no getting away from that," added Father MacAulay, who said he did not think the man should have accepted the post of bishop in 1990. "That is what I fail to understand. Knowing he had a child and accepting the post that put him very much into the public domain and into a post of great responsibility."

The episode has echoes of the scandal of Bishop Eamon Casey of Galway, Ireland, four years ago, who also disappeared when news broke that an affair had produced a child. He proved impossible to trace for months. But his location was known by the Church. He was eventually tracked down to Ecuador by Veronica Guerin, the Dublin reporter who was shot dead earlier this year because of her investigations into organised crime.

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Children cried themselves to sleep and were taunted at school, Pandora told the judge

Court was moved by wife's account of family ordeal

By Carol Midgley

KEVIN MAXWELL'S children had cried themselves to sleep and were taunted at school with gibes that their father would soon be locked up in prison "for years and years", his wife Pandora told the court.

Each morning when he left for the Old Bailey courtroom during the 131-day trial they feared that they would never see him again.

Yesterday, outside the family's home in Moulsham, Oxfordshire, she said: "For the past five years it has been like time stood still. Now we can sleep at night again. It has been an enormous burden and this is an enormous weight off all our shoulders."

"It has been very grim. The older children have been crying a lot. They didn't talk about the last day's hearing the night before. They just gave their father a kiss and said 'Goodnight'."

In his judgment Mr Justice Buckley said he believed that Mrs Maxwell's expressions of distress and anger were "entirely genuine". He added: "I cannot be overinfluenced by such matters, but no one could have been unmoved by her evidence."

Teddy, 10, the couple's elder son, was particularly traumatised. "He believed that if his father was sent to jail he would be the only man in the house," she told the High Court a few days ago. "I know that he cried himself to sleep at night. I couldn't cope because when the children burst into tears it would make me burst into tears and as a parent you try not to."

"The children still ask, but in particular Teddy, 'Is Daddy coming home tonight? Is he going to be here? Is he here this weekend? If they come in in the morning and Kevin is not there, it's, 'Did he come home last night? Was he here?'"

Mr and Mrs Maxwell, who live in a 16-bedroom manor house with her parents, John

and Ruth Warnford-Davis, have six children: Mathilda, 11, Edward (Teddy), 10, Chloe, 9, Madeline, 4, and Thomas, five months. Mrs Maxwell was pregnant with Thomas when the jury returned their unanimous not guilty verdicts last January.

She said that, but for the children, her marriage could well have failed, as had that of her husband's brother, Ian, to his wife, Laura.

Every day of the trial had been agony, she said, particularly when the jury, which deliberated for nine days, retired to consider its verdict.

"The children were very nervous... but so was Kevin for

years, and they would come home and I would have to explain to them that it was a possible outcome. You can't say to a child 'No he's not,' because I didn't know what the verdict was going to be."

Mrs Maxwell said that when the family was still living in Chelsea, at a £1.5 million home which they were later forced to sell, cameras would be trained on her kitchen window all day. Once, when she took the children by bus into the West End to see a show just before Christmas, photographers jumped on the bus with them.

"The children were worried because they didn't like this. They were followed to school. The children would come home and say, 'Why was my photograph in the newspaper? What's happening?' and, 'Is this because Grandad Bob died?'"

Mr Justice Buckley, 57, referred several times in his judgment to the stress suffered by the family. "I can understand the expectation built up in the family's mind that an acquittal would be the end of the matter. Mrs Maxwell's bewilderment and anger at the decision to proceed to another trial were not feigned," he said.

"She described the agony of trial and the days waiting for the verdict with the prospect of a significant prison sentence in the balance."

Mrs Maxwell said yesterday: "It is a 24-hour-a-day job raising children. I wanted them to survive the process intact and they have."

Mathilda dashed home from school to say that she had heard the news in the library with her friend. "We just started crying. I was so pleased. Everyone was crying." Flowers and champagne were delivered to the house by well-wishers.

Last night Mrs Maxwell said that there would be no special celebration, just a large family meal.

6 The children were very nervous. It was awful. Every night we were saying goodbye?

God's sake. It was awful. Every night we were saying goodbye.

When he had not called by 5pm each day she would know that the jury had not come to a verdict and that he would be coming home that night, his overnight bag still packed.

"The children would wait up to see him, and in the morning they would wait to see him before he went, but of course he was leaving at 6am or something so they wouldn't see him and they would be worried about what would happen if he didn't come home that night."

"The children at school occasionally did make remarks, you know: 'Your dad's in court. Your dad's going to prison. My dad says he's going to prison for years and



Pandora Maxwell and Teddy, 10. He would ask if his father was coming home

Maxwell hails a 'victory for humanity'

By Stephen Farrell

KEVIN MAXWELL told yesterday of his relief after five years in which the threat of legal action hung over him.

Sitting under a Hogarth portrait of St Paul in chains pleading before the Roman Governor, Felix, he betrayed little emotion but insisted that he could not have got through the "unending pressurised series of litigations" without his wife and his brother.

"Without the support of my wife and my family, and those many friends who stood by me, and without the support of my brother, I would not have survived," he told a press conference minutes after the hearing ended.

In court he had shown barely a flicker of a smile when, with the first words of a 59-minute ruling, Mr Justice Buckley declared that he would not allow the proceedings to continue. Ian Maxwell, a defendant in the first but not the proposed second trial, immediately leant over and clasped his brother's arm.

Outside, on the steps of the High Court, Kevin emerged arm in arm with his brother to describe the judge's decision as "a hell of a moment". Asked for his immediate feelings he said: "I am immensely relieved by the judge's decision. It is a victory for common sense and a victory for humanity."

"My other reaction is just immense relief that the jury's decision in the first trial and the acquittal of all the defendants now counts for something. For the first time in eight months the verdict now stands. We are innocent men. I am very relieved to be going home an innocent man tonight."

The worst moment of the five years, he said later, was on January 26 this year when the Serious Fraud Office announced its decision to proceed with a second trial. He said that he had never flinched from the first prosecution, knowing that it was inevitable after the collapse of his father's media empire with £400 million missing from the

pension funds. "But it is hard to explain the hammer blow on January 26 when, seven days after the unanimous verdict of the jury, the decision was taken to go on."

"At that moment I certainly felt persecuted, but today I am just relieved and I do not have any sense of persecution now. I do not want to throw any bricks at anybody. I am just so glad it is over."

He dismissed any prospect of legal action for compensation, saying that he had no intention of returning to court. He said he had no immediate thoughts for his business future, as he was still too numb to take in the judge's decision and wanted only to return home.

He said that it had been a

6 The verdict now stands. I am very relieved to be going home an innocent man tonight?

difficult decision to ask his wife, a private person with no involvement in the companies, to give evidence. "I am immensely grateful to her for her courage and sharing with the judge and the court her views on what happened."

"As the judge said, it really was moving. She is a very genuine person and she gave evidence in a typical Pandora way," he said.

His views on his father were more ambiguous. He said he still believed that Robert Maxwell had drowned accidentally, and did not blame him for the troubles that befell his sons. But he added: "I think it will be many years before I resolve in my own mind the questions I have got and the questions about our relationship."

Parents asked to pay exam bill

By a Staff Reporter

A SIXTH-FORM college where costs are rising faster than income has asked parents to contribute to examination fees. Long Road Sixth-Form College in Cambridge said it had been forced to make the request to meet its annual £100,000 examination bill.

With 1,500 pupils taking GCSEs or A levels, at an average cost of £120 a head, the college said that success had attracted more pupils without an equivalent rise in funds. Last year the number of students increased by 15 per cent when funding increased by less than 10 per cent. This year the figures are 7 and 1 per cent.

Madeleine Craft, the principal, said: "It's a direct consequence of the Government squeezing the public sector service. While I recognise the need to be efficient and to scrutinise all areas of expenditure, what we are looking at now is cuts which have the potential to damage the expectations of the students."

"Of course students will be allowed to sit exams irrespective of whether their parents have made a contribution. It is entirely voluntary and no records will be kept. I make the point in my letter that not all parents will be able to respond and I accept that."

Six universities plan tuition fees to overcome cuts

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

SIX universities are poised to introduce tuition fees next autumn if the Government does not reverse cuts in higher education in November's Budget, vice-chancellors' leaders said yesterday.

Professor Gareth Roberts, the vice-chancellors' chairman, said that up to 20 more universities were likely to follow in 1998, in effect creating a two-tier higher education system. "That is the very last thing that we want but I think it is inevitable unless there is some amelioration of cuts in the Budget."

The vice-chancellors, meeting in Sheffield, drew back from longer-term plans for a national system of fees and larger student loans. They agreed to press for more money from Government and employers before setting the level of student contributions.

Professor Roberts said: "There will be a need for more money from the public purse, more money from employers, who are the beneficiaries of graduates' training, and we do believe that students will have to contribute not just to maintenance but also a proportion of their tuition costs."

There is to be a joint study with the National Union of Students to agree the size of the shortfall in university funding. An extended meeting

has been scheduled for December, however, to co-ordinate the universities' response to a Budget Settlement which vice-chancellors expect to be tough on higher education. Among the options will be entrance fees and reductions in student numbers.

Professor Roberts said he expected six universities to introduce fees immediately if last year's 5 per cent cuts were not restored. He declined to name them, but said they would be among the most popular. The London School of Economics is to consider the introduction of fees in November and Huddersfield and Birmingham universities have carried out preliminary studies. Oxford and Cambridge have refused to rule out charging, but are not expected to be among the six pioneers.

Douglas Trainer, the NUS president, said student unions would take action at any university proposing to levy fees. Both the Conservatives and Labour oppose tuition fees, although they expect Sir Ron Dearing's review to pave the way for students to pay for their own maintenance. The vice-chancellors made a submission to Sir Ron's review which called for expansion in higher education.

Education, pages 35 and 36

Opt-opt school holds on to books

By Paul Wilkinson

A PRIMARY head teacher is refusing to return 300 overdue library books in a row with the local education authority over his village school's opted-out status.

John Wallace, 49, took the action when the new East Riding unitary authority, Yorkshire, refused to lend books to Wold Newton school because it had left local authority control.

Wold Newton, one of the first five primaries in Britain to opt out five years ago, has doubled its size to 160 pupils and has a long waiting list. It used to pay Humberside County Council £1,000 to borrow 500 books a year.

Labour councillors, the largest group on the hung East Riding authority, have voted to end the ban but the issue is to be re-examined next month. Mr Wallace said: "I would prefer that they continued trading with us while they discuss their policy. We don't get the service free and we are quite happy to pay over the odds for the books."

Audrey Nasar, Labour's education and libraries spokeswoman on the authority, said: "We are looking at what services we are prepared to sell at what price. We owe nothing to Mr Wallace, he took the sweeteners and opted out."

Families face good behaviour contract

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

HEADTEACHERS are to be given legal powers to turn down a pupil for their school if parents refuse to sign a contract promising to ensure the child's good behaviour. Ministers are also considering whether legal sanctions should be drawn up to use against parents if they breach the terms of the contract.

The new law to allow heads to use school-parent contracts as part of their admissions criteria is to be included in the new Education Bill planned for

radical step is part of a package of measures to improve discipline in schools but it will also set out legally the need for parents to retain control of their children and to supervise their schoolwork and behaviour. The tough approach was outlined yesterday in the Government's White Paper on the Citizen's Charter.

Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, wants every school in the country to introduce contracts with parents. These contracts — "home-school partnerships" in official jargon — have become a familiar innovation in many schools during the past four to five years. Until

parents' attitude to school contracts into account when deciding whether to offer a place to a child.

Among other initiatives to improve public services launched yesterday by Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, were publication of data to show the effectiveness of different hospital treatments; new targets to prevent shoplifting and car thefts; a smart-card for use on London Underground trains and buses; 80 new help-points and more closed-circuit television cameras at London tube stations; boards indicating bus waiting times at 4,500 bus stops in London; free computer discs from the Island Business to help with

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Modern art comes of age as galleries swap works

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE precise year in which modern art began has been pinpointed by the Tate and National galleries.

They decreed yesterday that 1900 marks the divide between where the National's collection should end and the Tate's modern art should begin. The two galleries will swap Monets, Matisses, Picassos and Pissarros that were painted on either side of the year.

The last such attempt to rationalise the collections was in 1927, when 1870 — the age of Impressionism and the first of the modern movements — was fixed as the beginning of the modern era. Sixty paintings from the "national collections of foreign art" will be exchanged for an experimental period of four years, starting next spring.

Moving 20th-century art

from the National and 19th-century art from the Tate means that Picasso's Cubist *Fruit Dish, Bottle and Violin*, as a 1914 work, will go to the Tate in return for works such as Van Gogh's *Farms near Auvers* of 1890. Juxtaposing images by the same artist in the same gallery gives a greater understanding of them than if they are split up: Seurat's *Bathers* at the National will be reunited with a study for it from the Tate.

However, there are complications with artists who worked in both centuries. Monet, for example, will be shared by the two galleries, with later images that bear a more abstract quality viewed as "very much of the 20th century" and therefore suitable for the Tate. Whereas his *Woman Seated on a Bench*, of



Farms near Auvers, painted by Van Gogh in 1890, is on its way from the Tate to the National Gallery in exchange for 20th-century pictures

1874, will hang at the National, his *Water-lilies* of 1916 will be at the Tate. Cézanne, although often described as the father of modern art, will also be seen at both galleries.

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, said: "It seems to us very important that the collections of this country are where the public expect them to be. When the

pictures from the Tate are brought together with the National Gallery's existing holdings, the British public will be able for the first time to see the full extent of the nation's 19th-century French collections and to discover how very rich they are."

Long since the Tate opened in 1897, in response to an urgent need for a national

gallery of British art, it has become responsible for British art from the 16th century and international modern art. It was as recently as 1955 that it was made independent from the National Gallery. Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, said: "This is a sign of real co-operation between two sister institutions."

He added: "There was cer-

tainly no concern about questions of value, but only thinking in terms of making the best use of the national collection for the public at large."

The directors said that the decision to create the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside had provided a fresh opportunity to reassess the distribution of works. The

agreement clarified their collecting responsibilities.

The 1900 divide is not entirely strict. The Tate will continue to keep its British collection, including pre-1900 Constables and Turners. Loans and committed bequests will be unaffected. Discussions are under way with other institutions and the exchanges could extend to collections overseas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Post strikes suspended by union

Postal strikes due today and Sunday evening have been called off after union leaders decided to re-ballot workers on whether to continue their four-month industrial action. Alan Johnson, the union's joint general secretary, said the dispute had become embroiled in a row about whether workers should be hailed on a package to improve pay and hours that included a proposal on team working. The executive had decided unanimously to call off strikes and seek a fresh mandate for industrial action.

Drugs charge

Police investigating the death of a head boy at a nightclub in Plymouth have charged a 39-year-old woman with supplying amphetamine sulphate. Richard Mulkerins, 17, died on Tuesday after collapsing at the club. Two youths, aged 17 and 18, were also arrested but have been released.

Ship safety alert

Shipping companies were urged to review lifeboat safety yesterday after a government investigation into a cross-channel ferry accident. Sixteen crew members were pitched into the sea during emergency drill on the P & O Pride of Hampshire in Cherbourg in 1994.

Pond accident

A child was found dead after his mother turned her back for less than a minute, an inquest at Leeds was told. Jordan Newton, 3, fell in a garden pond as his mother, Rachel, 20, of Seacroft, Leeds, took a 39-second telephone call. Verdict: accidental death.

Body unnoticed

The body of a retired car mechanic lay in his garage for ten months before it was noticed he was missing, an inquest was told. Henry Furse, 59, was found dead in his car at Red Lodge, Suffolk, near his son's home, in August. Verdict: suicide.

Change for £50

Today is the last day that the old-style £50 notes, featuring Sir Christopher Wren, are legal tender. Most banks will accept them for a limited period and the Bank of England indefinitely. Their replacement has a more complex design.

Talked out

A budgerigar said to be the most talented in Britain has died. Candy spoke five languages, including Russian. Its owner, Eileen Trapnell, 49, of Hill, Somerset, had just taught it to sing *The Lord is My Shepherd*. She said: "I am absolutely distraught."

Inquiry call after death at barracks

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Army was urged yesterday to examine weapons controls within barracks after an inquest was told that a man died after a prank.

Leonard Coyle, the Coroner for Newcastle upon Tyne, said he was astounded by the evidence given during an inquest into the death of Fusilier Gary Riches, 24, of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers, who was shot in the head while playing with a loaded SA80 rifle at an army base in Bosnia last October. The round also struck Edward Beddoes, a fellow fusilier involved in the horseplay.

Mr Coyle had considered a verdict of unlawful killing on the ground of gross negligence or recklessness, but ruled it out because of confusion over who had pressed the trigger. The weapon had gone off as Fusilier Beddoes leaned from his bunk on to Fusilier Riches, who was holding the rifle.

The inquest had been told that, the previous day, Fusilier Riches's gun was taken from him after he pointed the loaded weapon at other troops while messing about, and that on the night of the shooting the soldiers had drunk more lager than they were permitted. Recording an open verdict, Mr Coyle said: "There are a number of disturbing matters which should be exercised in the minds of the MoD."

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Women in twenties abandon Pill for fear of side-effects

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN in their late twenties are abandoning the contraceptive pill apparently because of fears about side-effects, experts said yesterday.

The proportion of women aged 25 to 29 taking the Pill had fallen by more than a fifth since 1993, from 45 to 35 per cent, according to a survey. However, the Pill was increasingly popular among teenagers and those over 30. Among women aged 35 to 44, Pill use had increased since 1993 from 11 to 16 per cent.

The survey is the fifth in a series examining women's attitudes to contraception and sex, undertaken by NCP for the Pill manufacturer Schering Health Care, during the past 13 years. Overall, the survey of 1,000 women showed the proportion of sexually active women not using any method of contraception had increased from 500,000 in 1993 to 850,000. Among teenagers aged 16 to 19, an estimated 150,000 sexually active young women were at risk of unwanted pregnancy compared with 90,000 three years ago.

Last year's scare, in which seven brands of low-dose contraceptive pill were linked with an increased risk of blood clots, triggered an initial 14 per cent fall in overall use but this had since stabilised at a

net 4 per cent drop, the survey showed. Anne Weyman, chief executive of the Family Planning Association, said campaigns to reduce teenage pregnancies had increased Pill use in the age group but that women in their twenties tended to be more concerned about side-effects.

Dr David Paintin, chairman of the Birth Control Trust, said the late twenties were the peak age for childbearing and many women would have stopped the Pill in order to start a family. However, this did not explain the sudden fall in popularity of the Pill in the age group since 1993. "Maybe their anxiety has been raised," he said.

In the over-30s, worries about side-effects appeared to have given way to a more sober assessment of the risks and benefits. Women who were combining a job with being a parent appreciated the control the Pill gave over their periods, limiting bleeding and pre-menstrual tension. Dr Paintin said.

"In the over-35s the risks of the Pill race up even in non-smokers but the increase in the chance of thromboses and breast cancer may be balanced by reductions in ovarian and endometrial cancer," he said.

More women were delaying

childbirth, and so were continuing with the Pill into their thirties rather than opting for a permanent form of contraception such as sterilisation or their partner having a vasectomy, and doctors were readier to agree to longer use of the Pill.

Among teenagers there were diverging trends, with more using the Pill and more taking no precautions at all. In the 16-to-19 age group, Pill use had increased from 40 to 43 per cent since 1993. Almost one in six of 16 to 24-year-olds were using the combined protection of the Pill and a sheath, apparently because of fear of infection.

However, almost one in ten 16 to 19-year-olds used no protection. Many wrongly believed that the risks of using the Pill were higher than the risks of having a baby. Figures show that the risk of dying in childbirth is ten times higher than from the Pill.



Simon and Manuela Jeans on their wedding day

Bedside farewell for family of soldier killed by Croat mob

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE family of the soldier who died after being attacked by a mob in Croatia spoke yesterday about their final moments with him. Private Simon Jeans's German wife, Manuela, said she was grateful that she had had the opportunity to say goodbye to her husband in a military hospital in Surrey.

Mrs Jeans, 23, said that his final words had been about her and their two-year-old son: "He said he loved me and he would always love me. He said 'Take care of yourself and Jason.' He knew he was going to die."

Private Jeans, who was serving with

the Implementation Force in Sarajevo, died in Frintley Park Military Hospital after his skull was fractured when he was beaten with baseball bats and iron clubs. He had been in a bar in Split with four other soldiers on Sunday when they were asked to leave, then set upon by about 30 locals.

His brother, Gavin, 19, said all the family had managed to gather at Private Jeans's bedside before he died. "My sister Davina was the last to get there. He waited for her to see him and after that he was gone."

Private Jeans, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was first taken to the



Private Jeans, pictured in Split, where he served with 14 Transport Squadron

John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, where he appeared to recover and was able to chat with his family before relapsing and being transferred. His mother, Geraldine Bennett, 43, said that her son, 25, appeared to relive the attack while in hospital. "When he was in intensive care in Oxford he actually awoke and called for his friend. He said, 'Don't worry about me, help Jeff.' His hands were clenched as if he was reliving it."

"They had only had one drink. A Croatian came in and started some bother so the barman asked them to leave. When they got outside the

Croatians were waiting for them with iron bars. We believe Simon was trying to help one of his friends when the Croatians went past on a moped. One of them whacked him with a bar."

Mrs Bennett added: "There were three things he always wanted. He wanted to go into the Army, he wanted to get married and he wanted a son. He had all those three things. He had a good life. I never regretted him going into the Army."

Private Jeans had been in Bosnia since Christmas and had served in the Gulf War. He is to be buried with full military honours.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Tiny risks are outweighed by effectiveness

DOCTORS must take some of the responsibility for the million women of reproductive age who are revealed by the NCP survey as not bothering with contraception.

Anxieties about the increase in the number of deep-vein thromboses, which is fatal in 1 to 2 per cent of cases, may have dissuaded doctors from recommending the Pill. They have a fear that advising a woman to take the Pill, however usual and possibly life-saving that measure might be, could cause her serious trouble if she is one of the tiny minority likely to have a thrombotic problem.

Since the increased publicity about thromboembolic side-effects of the Pill, it is even more important for doctors to discuss at length the question of relative safety of the contraceptive Pill with the patient. It is a doctor's duty to question patients carefully and to examine them to make certain that they do not have any of the characteristics that might show they have an additional risk of developing embolic phenomena. But once the patients are fully informed, it must be their decision as to whether they want it prescribed.

The pollsters estimate that there are 150,000 late-teenage women who are sexually active but use no contraceptive. Young women in particular do not realise that the risks of developing a deep-vein thrombosis as a result of becoming pregnant are much greater than the small risk to which they are subjected when taking the Pill. If any trusting young woman allows herself to become pregnant, she is four times more likely to suffer thrombosis than if she regu-

larly takes the most commonly prescribed Pill.

Extrapolating from the national statistics, a woman taking the Pill is 20 times more likely to die from influenza, 12 times more likely to have a fatal road accident, more likely to be murdered, twice as likely to have a lethal accident at work and four times as likely to have one at home.

There is always anxiety among would-be Pill takers about the increased risks of strokes and coronary heart attacks. Surprisingly, the slight increase in the incidence of these diseases is smaller in those patients who are taking the third-generation Pill than in those who have reverted to the older preparations. Smoking appreciably increases the risk attached to taking the Pill.

The third question patients ask is about breast cancer. Results of the survey show that any increased risk in developing the disease has disappeared ten years after stopping the Pill and that the incidence of breast cancer is lower in women who stopped taking the Pill 20 years earlier. It seems that, for various reasons, patients on the Pill have their breast tumours diagnosed earlier.

I still recommend the Pill. It is the most effective form of contraception, its risks are exaggerated and it is extremely convenient. I find that I now spend longer discussing its advantages and disadvantages with patients, and I am more careful to recommend against it in the cases of those who display contraindications to its use.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Chocolate joins wine on health food list

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHOCOLATE may be a vital ingredient in fighting heart disease, and the darker the confectionery the better, researchers in America claim.

In a study that will bring pleasure to cocoa addicts, confectioners and dentists, the winning recipe for good health would be to combine chocolate intake with red wine. Dr Andrew Waterhouse and researchers from California University found that chocolate contains significant levels of phenol, which prevents oxidation of a specific

lipoproteins is known to be linked to furring of the arteries, which can lead to heart attacks. A 41-gram piece of milk chocolate was found to contain 205mg of phenol, compared with 210mg in a glass of red wine. Two table spoons of cocoa had 146mg of phenol. Dark chocolate had more phenol than milk chocolate, the researchers, writing in the *The Lancet*, said.

A spokesman for Cadbury's said: "We've long said there's nothing wrong with chocolate and it can be beneficial as part of a balanced diet. It has many other ingredients that are good for you, such as calcium."

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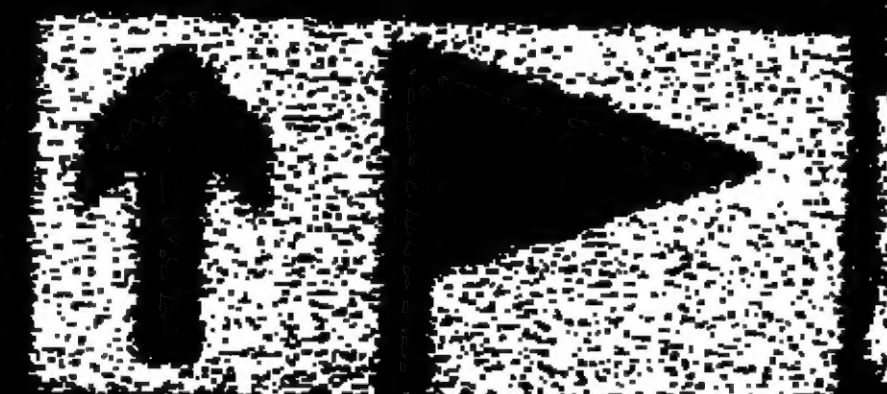
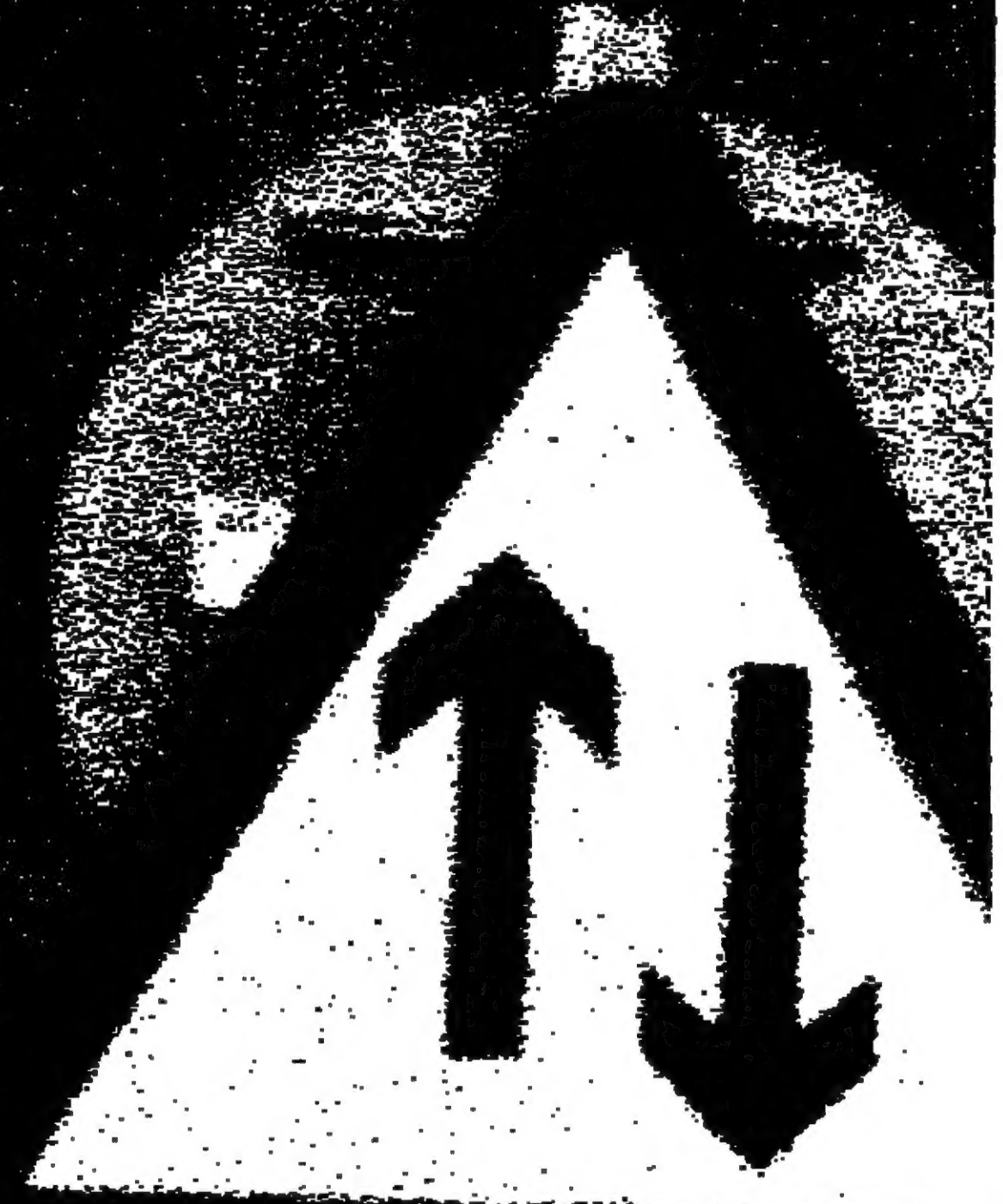
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How breakfast plotters hatched Euro fightback

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Teenagers who chanted 'white bastard' as they stamped on man's head are given long sentences

Race attack left victim in coma

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THREE black teenagers left a young man in a coma after stamping on his head while chanting "white bastard", a court was told yesterday. The judge jailed them for a total of almost 35 years and told them that they had behaved "like a pack of wild animals".

Doctors feared that Gareth Wilshaw would be left in a permanent vegetative state after he was punched to the ground and kicked in the head up to 30 times. Danau Drummond, Marlon Howell and Gary Hutchinson, all 18, shouted racist abuse as they repeatedly stamped on Mr Wilshaw while he lay motionless. Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Mr Wilshaw, 24, who was in a coma for three months, suffered brain damage and had still not recovered sufficiently to give evidence against his attackers. His brother Robert, 36, said after the sentence: "When they came out they will be able to walk. Gary may never walk again."

Mr Wilshaw, a car mechanic, was the main victim of a string of unprovoked attacks led by Drummond, who was



Drummond, left, Hutchinson, centre, and Howell behaved "like wild animals"

enraged at being thrown out of a nightclub on December 23 last year. Philip Ellis, who saw the assault, told the court: "It was disgusting. It wasn't just kicking. It was stamping on his head. I could hear them shouting 'white bastard'. It was the longest minute I have ever known. My natural instinct was to go and help, but my sense told me not to, otherwise I would probably have been with him now."

The court was told that the youths were later spotted by a security guard who heard one boast, "Did you see the way I did him?" as he mimed kicking somebody. The gang was

responsible for three other attacks the same night as Drummond, who lost a ring when he was thrown out of the club, vented his anger on anyone he came across. Howell later told police: "He said his ring was worth a lot of money, so somebody would have to pay."

The attack on Mr Wilshaw was so savage that when his parents, Ron and Yvonne, first saw him in hospital, he still had the imprint of a shoe over one eye. He is expected to remain in hospital at least until next month. He still has difficulties with his speech.

Drummond, of Spondon, Derby, was sentenced to ten years in a young offenders' institution after admitting causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He was given a further 30 months, to run consecutively, after admitting wounding a man in an earlier attack, leaving him needing 34 stitches.

The court was told that, in that attack, Drummond subjected the man and his girlfriend to "a torrent of abuse", shouting and calling his victim a "white honky". Drummond had walked free from court two days before the attack on Mr Wilshaw after being sentenced to 24 hours at

an attendance centre for an offence of assault.

Howell, of Normanton, Derby, and Hutchinson, of Spondon, denied the charge but were convicted at the end of a trial last month. They were each given 11 years in a young offenders' institution.

Judge Dudley Bennett said: "You three participated in an entirely, absolutely, completely unprovoked, vicious and sustained attack upon a young white youth who simply had been going out and enjoying a pre-Christmas drink. There is the plainest evidence that the attack was at least in part a racially motivated attack."

He said that Mr Wilshaw would never recover: "You have ruined his life forever. No sentence I pass on you can ever compensate for that."

He said that the sentences were not only to punish the three but also to deter others. "There are far too many gangs of youths prowling through the streets in the late hours causing this kind of trouble."

Barristers for the three said that none had set out with violence in mind that night and that they and their families would suffer for years from their actions.



Gareth Wilshaw, seen with his parents before the attack, may never walk again

Church in Wales votes for women priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 80 women deacons are to be ordained priests after the Church in Wales yesterday became the last of the four Anglican churches in the British Isles to accept them.

The two-thirds majority needed to admit women into the priesthood was achieved by one vote when clergy of the Church in Wales, meeting in Lampeter, Cardiganshire, accepted the bill after an emotional debate. The clergy had voted against change when it last came before the governing body two years ago, although it was supported then, as now, by the bishops and laity.

The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, said that to continue opposition to women priests would leave Welsh Anglicans isolated and split from the rest of the church. "We will just be a forgotten province of the Anglican Church," he said.

After the meeting, jubilant women deacons hugged one another in celebration. The women had warned of defections to the Church of England if the Bill was defeated again. The Church in Wales first ordained women deacons in 1980, five years after the Church of England.

The Rev David Holloway, vicar of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, a leading evangelical, yesterday urged the Prince of Wales to renounce Camilla Parker Bowles and lead a celibate life. He said that otherwise the Prince could not become Supreme Governor of the Church.

Rapid rise in number of cancer sufferers

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people suffering from cancer is increasing sharply, figures published yesterday disclosed. Deaths from cancer have also risen.

New cases of the disease in women rose by 30 per cent between 1979 and 1991, from 83,100 to 107,900. In men new cases rose by 21 per cent from 86,200 to 104,200.

The Office of National Statistics, which published the figures, said some of the increase in new cases was due to the ageing of the population. After allowing for this, the rise is estimated at 20 per cent among women and 10 per cent among men.

Experts say that some of this rise is due to better diagnosis and improved registration but, even allowing for these, there was a real increase.

The figures demonstrate that despite millions spent on research that has yielded significant advances in the laboratory, these have not been translated into effective treatments. And although spectacular progress has been made against certain cancers, such as childhood leukaemia and testicular tumours, little success has been achieved against common forms such as lung and bowel cancer.

The figures show that more than half of all cancers occurred in those aged 65 to 79. Only 6 per cent of cancers in men and 9 per cent in women occurred in those under 45. There were 1,200 cancers in children under 15, one third of them leukaemia.

BT prepares to halt calls to prostitutes

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BT HAS sent its first 67 warning letters to prostitutes advertising their services in public telephone boxes. Those who ignore the warnings risk having all incoming calls to their numbers blocked by the end of the month.

BT announced its clean-up of telephone boxes last month. In the past three weeks security guards have collected 20,000 prostitutes' cards from kiosks in Westminster City Council's area. The telephone numbers have been fed into a computer and warning letters sent to the most frequent ones.

"Some totally different cards have got the same telephone number," BT said. "The method we are using enables us to pinpoint the addresses which are most in use by the prostitutes."

"Cards", who claim to

earn up to £100 a day placing the numbers in telephone boxes, have ignored warnings that lines will be blocked. Council cleaners are still removing up to 150,000 cards a week from the 700 boxes in the council area.

If any of the 67 addresses sent a warning appear on newly distributed cards, the computer will spot them. A second warning will be sent next week. If that is ignored, incoming calls will be blocked.

An earlier attempt to block lines was thwarted by OfTel, which upheld a complaint from a prostitute that the move was illegal. The new method has been worked out with legal advice, although a London prostitutes' group has threatened to challenge BT in the courts if lines are blocked.

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Seoul troops kill seven on bungled spy raid by North

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND NICHOLAS LONG IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA denounced a bungled infiltration attempt as "military provocation" yesterday as its troops shot dead seven North Koreans on the second day of a manhunt that has dramatised the enduring Cold War hostility between the two neighbours.

"This is not a simple spy case. I regard it as a kind of military provocation," President Kim Young Sam told a Cabinet meeting.

Tension escalated after the killings when a North Korean submarine crewman revealed under interrogation that his unit had completed a spying mission against a South Korean airfield at Kangnung on the eastern coast. He said it was the fourth mission the spy submarine had undertaken since the beginning of September.

Those killed yesterday were cut down by automatic fire as they crouched by a stream to drink, according to military sources in Kangnung. They were dressed in blue jeans and sneakers made in South Korea.

The killings brought to 18 the number of North Koreans who have died since their submarine ran aground off Kangnung on Wednesday. Last night thousands of troops

and police with sniffer dogs continued to comb thickly wooded mountains near the coast in the hope of tracking down another five infiltrators who came ashore from the submarine.

Seoul security forces believe survivors of the unit are fleeing through the mountains towards the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas, about 50 miles from where the submarine ran aground. But the total number of intruders is still unclear.

The captive North Korean is reported to have told military interrogators that a total of 25 people were on board the submarine, rather than 20 as he said initially.

The man, Lee Kwang Su, 31, was also reported to have disclosed that the mission was aimed at conducting reconnaissance on South Korean naval facilities and the strategic airport at Kangnung. General Shin Kang Kil, briefing reporters, said the captive had refused to discuss his mission until he began to talk under the influence of alcohol.

"He at first refused to answer, saying he feared for the lives of family members in the North," said General Shin. "But after drinking four bot-

les of soju (Korean whiskey) his tongue loosened."

A former North Korean agent, Lee Won Bok, who defected previously, was quoted yesterday as saying that the North had at least 1,000 infiltration agents, including all-female squads.

Defence Ministry officials in Seoul said the North typically uses small teams of trained agents for espionage operations and were surprised by the size of the latest contingent. It was unclear how many of the North Koreans were agents or commandos and how many were crew members on the submarine, which remained stranded on a coastal reef yesterday.

Defence Ministry officials in Seoul said ten of the North Koreans found dead on Wednesday may have been shot by their leader to avoid capture once they realised the mission had failed. The eleventh man then took his own life.

Incursions by North Korean agents and commandos are nothing new, but this is the most serious incident in recent years, deepening the antagonism between the two Koreas felt since the Korean War ended in 1953.

Leading article, page 19



Shannon Lucid greets Atlantis astronaut William Readdy after the shuttle docked with Mir to take her home

Spacewoman hails earthbound 'limousine'

New York: Shannon Lucid, America's marooned spacewoman, hugged and joked with NASA astronauts who yesterday arrived to take her back home from Mir, the Russian space station where she has spent the past six months (Quentin Letts writes).

A thrilled Mrs Lucid, smiling broadly, referred to the Atlantis space shuttle as "my limousine" and made clear that she

was more than ready to exchange Mir, and the (albeit friendly) company of two Russian cosmonauts, for life on Earth. She pinched her American colleagues to make sure that she was not dreaming. She was originally scheduled to spend four months in orbit, but her stay on Mir was forcibly extended when Atlantis was delayed by technical problems and by bad weather. Mrs Lucid, who has had to

make do with sponge baths and dried rations since March, greeted the Atlantis crew members with a tray of bread and salt — a Russian expression of welcome. □ Seattle: President Clinton is abandoning President Bush's initiative to put a man on Mars by 2019, it was reported last night, and instead committing NASA to putting a robot on the red planet by 2000. (AP)

Peking carpets sex case general

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A CHINESE general has been disciplined for making sexual advances to a woman soldier from the turbulent Muslim region of Xinjiang.

According to a Reuters report from Peking, General Qu Cong was on an official visit to North Korea when he unsuccessfully demanded sex from the woman, a Uighur from Xinjiang, a northwestern region shaken by revolt against Chinese rule since the 19th century. Official sources are tight-lipped because the affair is "very sensitive". General Qu's promotion to head the army's Art Academy has been blocked after a report ordered by President Jiang Zemin, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission. Xinjiang, a vast region containing most of China's 20 million Muslims, is more restive than Tibet, partly because its people are linked to revive Muslims across the border in the former Soviet Union. Like Muslims elsewhere, the Uighurs' religious faith is closely associated with their fierce nationalism.

In May the official Xinjiang Daily reported a tightening of security after Uighur "splittists" killed six or seven Han Chinese and a pro-Han mullah was murdered.

Bernard Levin, page 18

Women infuriated by Italian 'charter' for wife-beaters

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN women were furious yesterday after a Supreme Court ruling in Rome that it is not a crime for a jealous man to beat his wife so long as he does not make a habit of it.

The court sent back for reconsideration an eight-month prison sentence originally imposed by the Palermo Court of Appeal on Francesco Lombardo, 42, a Sicilian bricklayer, who argued that he hit and kicked his wife Anna, 40, a mother of four, "only because of jealousy" and that the attack four years ago was only an occasional episode even though she had to receive medical attention. The Supreme Court ruled that wife-beating was a crime only if it was "planned and systematic" and if there was "a grave intention to humiliate and oppress" the woman.

The Supreme Court took into account a plea for clemency for her husband made by Signora Lombardo. "Please clear him: my husband is a good person. He only hit me during an argument in which we were both angry."

"He was a little jealous and his work was going badly. Do not condemn him because it would make our lives even more complicated," she said.

Leading feminists such as Tina Lagostena Bassi, a prominent divorce lawyer, condemned the Supreme Court ruling. "Asking the victim to demonstrate that the

maltreatment is continuous is diabolical," she said. "This is why so many violent husbands remain unpunished and why we have known so many stories of deaths that were waiting to happen."

Signora Lombardo said that during their fight "one word led to another and he began to scream. At a certain point he exploded and I do not remember if he gave me a slap or a punch." She went with her mother to hospital in the Palermo suburb of Capaci where she received treatment from doctors who said she would need seven days to get well. Police following up a hospital report charged her husband and he was convicted and sentenced to a year in prison by a local court. The sentence was reduced to eight months on appeal.

Anna Finocchiaro, Minister for Equal Opportunity in the Centre-Left Government, also weighed in, saying: "Urgent measures are needed to keep a violent husband out of the home." The minister challenged the Supreme Court ruling which, she said, amounted to saying "there was no wish for oppression but 'only' jealousy". She added: "In this way, in the end one could say that there are good bruises and bad bruises, that there is violence with good intentions because there is no desire to oppress. But violence always is a crime."

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Dixons

Stumbling Dole adds to image of an old man

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE sought solace in Las Vegas yesterday after a calamitous foray into California to protest against the moral laxity of Hollywood and President Clinton.

The 73-year-old Republican fell 4ft off a stage and landed on his back. He praised the Brooklyn Dodgers, forgetting that the team had moved to Los Angeles and changed its name in 1958. He also denounced *Pulp Fiction* and the recent British film *Trainspotting*, claiming that they glorified heroin. Aides admitted he had seen neither film, and *Pulp Fiction*'s director demanded an apology.

Mr Dole visited Los Angeles to continue his crusade against drugs, an issue on which he feels the baby-boomer President is vulnerable. He recalled how Mr Clinton had laughed when asked in 1992 if he would inhale marijuana given a second chance and replied: "Sure, if I could, I tried before." That, said Mr Dole, showed Mr Clinton's "moral confusion" and unfitness to lead.

Mr Dole then demanded

Hollywood "stop the commercialisation of drug abuse, stop the glorification of slow suicide" and singled out *Trainspotting* and *Pulp Fiction* as films that promoted "the romance of heroin".

Trainspotting, a film about young working-class heroin addicts in Edinburgh, was not a Hollywood movie but was released in America by a division of Walt Disney. The main character at one point extols heroin, but it also portrays the tragic consequences of addiction: Aids, death, violence and squalor.

Quentin Tarantino, *Pulp Fiction*'s writer and director, denied that his film glorified heroin. "I've never seen a politician so consistently give opinions about issues he knows nothing about," he said. Nelson Warfield, Mr Dole's press secretary, said the candidate had read reviews of both films and argued: "You don't have to look in every trash can to know there's garbage inside."

From Los Angeles, Mr Dole flew north to a rally in the town of Chico. As he leant over



Bob Dole slips from a 4ft stage after a balustrade gave way in Chico, California, during a campaign speech. "I have fallen for Chico," he said

a balustrade around the stage to shake supporters' hands, he broke and he tumbled into a group of photographers. He was helped to his feet by Secret Service agents. He made light of the accident, joking that he had "fallen for Chico", and aides said the fact he emerged unscathed showed his toughness. But the damage was done. Every newspaper and television station had the per-

fect visual metaphor for Mr Dole's floundering campaign. His widely-reported reference to the Brooklyn Dodgers in his Los Angeles speech was another mini-disaster. It reminded voters of his age, and was the latest of a string of similar gaffes that have plagued his campaign.

He has talked of the epitaph he wants on his tombstone. He keeps visiting graves — his

great-great-grandfather's, his parents', Richard Nixon's. He boasted of receiving a "shot in the arm" from a meeting with former President Reagan, who is 85 and slowly dying of Alzheimer's disease.

In his convention speech, Mr Dole offered himself as a bridge to the past. He has toured California's "death row" and a New Hampshire brewery that made Old Man

Ale, and would have visited a New Jersey lifejacket factory had bad weather not grounded his plane. During a visit to a small Ohio town last week he bought a pair of long johns.

The image of Mr Dole as a geriatric is unfair — he has tremendous energy — but it is taking hold. A recent poll asked 610 Americans to give a one-word description of Mr Dole and 118 said "old" —

seven times more than the next most common adjectives which were "good" and "conservative".

Two national polls yesterday put Mr Dole 13 and 17 points behind Mr Clinton. State polls put him five points behind in Florida, which has not voted for a Democrat in 20 years, and just one point ahead in Virginia, which last voted for a Democrat in 1964.

Luckless Perry faces claims of more Gulf War poisoning

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE announcement by the Pentagon yesterday that a further 5,000 troops who served in the Gulf War had been exposed to chemical weapons crowned an embarrassing fortnight for William Perry, the Defence Secretary, whose future appears increasingly uncertain.

During testimony before Congress the previous day, Mr Perry had finally admitted responsibility for failed leadership in the deaths of 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia in June.

He had just returned from a singularly unsuccessful diplomatic shuttle trip to the Middle East, aimed at rallying the coalition against President Saddam Hussein as America dispatched further troops, aircraft carrier battle groups and other military hardware to the region.

And it was the Defence Secretary who, the previous week, had made the most forthright statements about

"disproportionate" response to any further provocations from Saddam after 44 ineffectual American airstrikes against Iraqi targets.

The notification yesterday to veterans of the Gulf that thousands more troops may have been exposed to chemical weapons during the war, rather than the initial 150 discussed earlier this year, can only further claims of a cover-up during Mr Perry's tenure at the Pentagon.

Formerly the department's deputy, the normally soft-spoken academic had never sought the top post at the Pentagon in 1994 after the resignation of Les Aspin over the Administration's accelerated efforts to allow homosexuals into the military.

Instead President Clinton had selected a retired admiral after pursuing Senator Sam Nunn and others deemed "Washington superstars". Exasperated by his inability to find a successor, Mr Clinton

had finally turned to Mr Perry, a man widely respected in the defence community for his first-hand knowledge of weapons' technology or someone with little administrative or foreign policy experience.

A successful early tenure started to sour earlier this year with revelations of cheating and drug scandals at the Annapolis Naval Academy followed by the suicide of Admiral Mike Boorda, the Chief of Naval Operations, amid talk of senior officers currying political favour from the Clinton Administration.

In July, Mr Perry himself came under attack for being the only member of the Cabinet to indulge in the costly procedure of midair refueling, an action normally reserved for combat missions. His one-way flight to Sydney had cost an estimated \$137.729 (£88,000).

After the death of US airmen in Dhahran leading Re-

publicans, including Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, called for Mr Perry to accept responsibility and resign.

In a belated *mea culpa* this week, Mr Perry defended the senior officers who had failed to secure the housing complex in Saudi Arabia. "I will not seek to delegate responsibility for this tragedy on any of my military commanders," he said. "To the extent this tragedy resulted in the failure of leadership, that responsibility is mine and mine alone."

Mr Perry has given no indication that he will stand down and is unlikely to do so before the election. He is not expected to serve in a second administration.

Senior national security aides have talked of him as a "loose cannon" since an incident in which, at a time when Bosnia was thought to be an electoral minefield, he admitted that American troops would remain in the region for more than a year.

Swiss give Holocaust Jews £1.2m

Zurich: The Swiss Government promised SwFr1 million (£500,000) to two Holocaust groups yesterday. The gesture was sought by Jewish groups following Switzerland's apology last year for turning back refugees from Nazi terror.

The decision came as pressure mounted on the Swiss Government and Swiss banks to pay back Nazi wealth and Jewish accounts left ownerless by Holocaust victims. The payment was described as "part of our normal duty as a civilised nation". (Reuters)

China attacked over changes

Peking: Britain told China that plans to establish a provisional legislature in place of the current elected body when it takes over Hong Kong next year is "unjustified, unnecessary and a serious disruption" (James Pringle writes). "The great majority of people in Hong Kong want continuity and a smooth transition," said Hugh Davies, the senior British representative on the Joint Liaison Group, which is handling the transition.

Debate curbed in Zimbabwe

Harare: The Mugabe Government used its 147-3 majority in the Zimbabwean parliament to quash debate on a motion of no confidence in the opposition leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole. (Michael Harnack writes). The motion is expected to be amended to congratulate President Mugabe on his 16-year rule.

Gujarat to be ruled by Delhi

Delhi: President Sharma of India dismissed the government of Gujarat state and imposed federal rule after the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pushed through a confidence vote by 92 to 0 in a state legislature session marred by violence. All opposition members had been suspended by the acting Speaker, a BJP member. (Reuters)

Reprieve after 44 years on run

New York: A Brooklyn Freemason, known for his community work, has spent 44 years on the run from a Florida chain-gang (Quentin Letts writes). Eddie Brown, 64, was arrested after his past came to light but set free by a New York judge who declared him to be a changed man.

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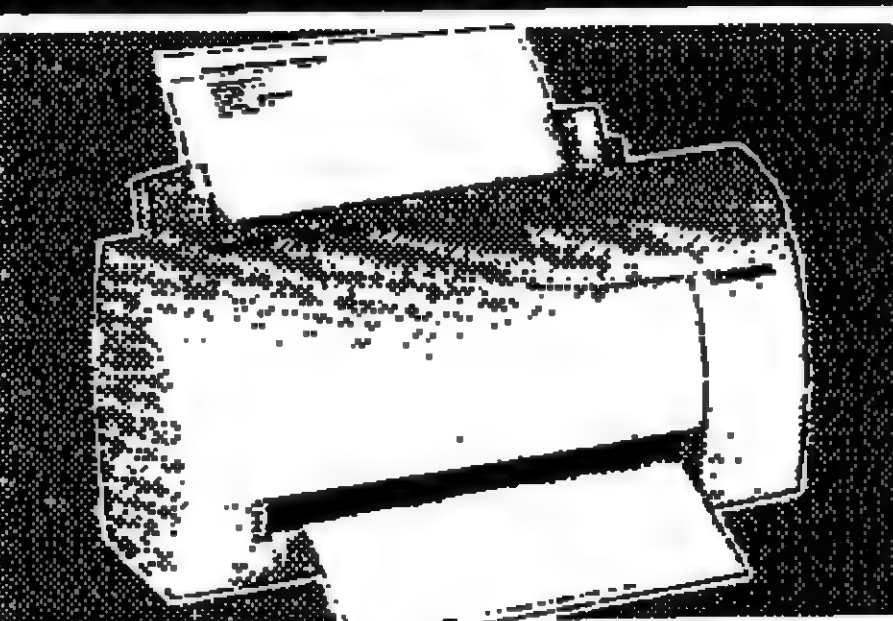
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'Lord God' damns his creation

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE international supermodel Claudia Schiffer was bluntly told to retire yesterday by her former mentor, Karl Lagerfeld.

In an episode that, even by the tart standards of supermodelling, seemed unnecessarily cruel, Schiffer, 26, learnt from Lagerfeld that she was "out in terms of fashion".

The Chanel designer told a confidential newspaper: "She grew up in another world. Another fashion, another time. She should no longer model." He commented that "Claudia would have been a wonderful Hollywood silent star".

Lagerfeld was credited with making her a star in the late 1980s, but in recent months he has switched his allegiance to another, younger model, Stella Tennant of Britain.

The Schiffer camp promptly mounted a damage-limitation exercise and accused the autocratic Lagerfeld of considering himself to be "the Lord God".



Claudia Schiffer, described as "out in terms of fashion"

Chips down for blue Wall Street

BY QUENTIN LETTS

WALL STREET'S traders, the sharpest-toothed dogs of capitalism, have been told to watch their language.

The US National Association of Securities Dealers, which regulates the conduct of about 530,000 financial brokers across the United States, has demanded an end to the swearing that traditionally has decorated life on the

ing them that "the use of profane or obscene language", either to clients or to colleagues, may in future be punished by four-figure fines.

Reid Walker, a spokesman for the Washington-based association, said yesterday that bad language was damaging the credibility of the market. He added: "It is better for business if you work professionally. This is about behaviour, not just random words."

described vividly in books such as Michael Lewis's *Liars' Poker*, with office bullies vying to out-outr one another and uttering foul descriptions of office juniors in their presence. In the tension generated by fast-moving markets, the trading floor vocabulary can be lurid, especially when an underling makes a costly mistake.

One trader said yesterday: "Bad language is part of life



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Iraqi-backed Kurd asks West to shield him from Saddam

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Kurdish leader who asked President Saddam Hussein for military help to defeat a rival Kurdish faction was now "urgently" asking the Gulf War allies for protection, John Deutch, the CIA director, revealed yesterday.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), was "urgently" asking for our assistance... in an effort to keep Saddam Hussein at arm's length", Mr Deutch said in congressional testimony. On Wednesday, Mr Barzani briefly left Iraq to hold a meeting with Robert Pelletreau, the Assistant US Secretary of State, in Turkey. Neither man commented on the meeting afterwards.

Mr Barzani precipitated the present Iraq crisis late last month by inviting Saddam's forces into the Kurdish haven north of the 36th parallel to help him to capture the city of Arbil and drive back the forces of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Mr Barzani's play worked, and the KDP now controls most of northern Iraq, but Mr Deutch said that he was playing an "enormously dangerous game". The CIA chief recalled how Saddam had massacred Kurds, including

members of Mr Barzani's family, in 1991 and said the Iraqi dictator was now pressuring Mr Barzani to "negotiate a framework for autonomy under Baghdad's overall control". Mr Deutch said the Iraqi military had withdrawn south of the 36th parallel, but Saddam had left a network of intelligence and security officers in the Kurdish zone.

He gave no indication how the coalition would respond to Mr Barzani's appeal, but it is unlikely to be sympathetic. Saddam's incursion into the Kurdish haven led the US to launch 44 cruise missiles against targets in southern Iraq, a move which divided the allies.

The CIA director also said that Saddam's latest confrontation with America had strengthened his position in the region. The allies' failure to support the US airstrikes had caused a "perception of weakened determination of the coalition to meet Iraqi aggression". Turkey was increasingly willing to deal directly with Iraq, and Saddam had survived six years of international sanctions.

"It is not possible to say that [Saddam] is not stronger today than he was six weeks ago,

and I think that is very bad," Mr Deutch said. He gave a warning that there would be "no stability in the region or improved circumstances for the Iraqi people until Saddam Hussein and his regime are replaced", but the CIA did not believe he would be overthrown "in the near term". When Saddam's forces captured Arbil they destroyed a major CIA operation designed to remove the Iraqi dictator.

As Mr Deutch was speaking in Washington, the US military build-up in the region gathered pace. A second US aircraft carrier group led by the USS Enterprise arrived in the Gulf to join the USS Carl Vinson. As many as 3,500 US troops were arriving in Kuwait last night and today, reinforcing the 120,000 already there. A formidable array of warplanes arrived a few days ago.

These forces could be used to mount new attacks on Iraq if it defies the expanded southern no-fly zone, or to defend Kuwait, though Mr Deutch said the prospects of another Iraqi attack on the emirate were "very low". US military analysts estimate the cost of the build-up at \$200-\$250 million (£130-160 million).



America's first female chain-gang shuffles off awkwardly on its way to pick up litter in the scorching streets of Phoenix yesterday

Sheriff puts his chain-gang women on parade

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

FOR HER first day on America's first female chain-gang, Princess Richardson bought a tube of deep red lipstick at the prison and wrote a martial-sounding cadence for her fellow inmates to yell back at her.

One verse went: We got to work so we don't get fat, We wear orange suits and little orange hats Big wide belts and black shiny boots People say we look cute.

Shackled to each other with hardened steel, 15 women from Estrella jail in Phoenix shuffled off a bus onto the

scorching streets yesterday to pick up litter and show what it means to be a criminal in the backyard of "America's toughest sheriff".

They were not cute, but they were instant celebrities. Summoned by Sheriff Joe Arpaio's well-oiled publicity machine, an international media horde gathered to witness the latest eye-catching punishment conceived by a man who likes to think of himself as the West's meanest law enforcer since Wyatt Earp. Mr Arpaio is admired by 85 per cent of Phoenix citizens, reviled by civil rights groups and endured by his inmates.

"It's hell in the hole. That's why we're out here," said Richardson, 42, a

motorcycle gang member serving a one-year sentence for aggravated assault after trying to shoot her allegedly abusive husband. She was referring to the Estrella jail's 23-hour-a-day "lockdown" wing in which inmates live four to a cell in temperatures of up to 110F (43C), sharing an uncensored lavatory, for violating prison rules.

Thirty-day stints on chain-gang duty are offered as a quick way out of lockdown. "It's kind of an honour for us to have the opportunity to get back on inmate status," Michelle Allen said, serving time for selling drugs and equipped for the day with weeding gloves, water bottle and a

rake. Struggling to walk in rhythm with the two women chained to her left foot, Allen set off down bleak and staidless Van Buren Street under the approving gaze of Mr Arpaio. "They get a diploma when it's over," he announced. "It says 'Last Chance Chain-Gang', and that's exactly what it means. If they get out of line again, they finish their term in lockdown."

Mr Arpaio, a rotund former narcotics officer, had justified women chain-gangs by saying that crime has no gender, so neither should punishment. "Is this politically incorrect?" he asked. "All I know is it is tough, and I like that. I am not a social worker; I'm out here to punish."

Netanyahu rejects Syrian call for Golan concessions

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday ruled out concessions being demanded by Syria for reopening peace talks stalled since February as new violence flared in Lebanon. Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded Hezbollah targets after two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in an ambush.

The eruption of fighting, which brought to 20 the num-

ber of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon by pro-Iranian guerrillas this year, came amid an urgent new American mediation attempt to defuse tension between Israel and Syria prompted by dramatic troop movements on both sides of the border.

News of the flare-up along the only active Arab-Israeli war front came as Mr Netanyahu was being interviewed by The Times and

other European papers in advance of his first official trip to Europe next week. Officials said he would hold talks with John Major, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, and possibly Baroness Thatcher, the former Prime Minister, in London before going on to Paris and Bonn.

After talks with Dennis Ross, the American mediator, Mr Netanyahu firmly rejected the call by President Assad of Syria that he adopt the position attributed to the previous Labour Government of agreeing in advance to hand back the whole of the Golan, taken from Syria in 1967, as part of a deal to secure a peace treaty similar to that signed by Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Mr Netanyahu said: "This Government was elected on a different platform [than Labour]. To request us to automatically assume the hypothetical positions of the previous Government ensures that we cannot move forward. It is now up to President Assad if he is interested, or not interested, in pursuing the peace talks."

Koalas to be given the Pill

Melbourne: The Australian state of Victoria plans to give koalas vasectomies and a version of the Pill to curb their growing numbers.

Wildlife officials who unveiled the plan yesterday said that although koalas were not considered threatened in Victoria, populations of the voracious eucalyptus eaters were up to 10 times the norm at some sites. Leaf consumption was exceeding supply, they added.

"If we don't face up to this issue... then there are several areas across the state which will suffer long-term ecological damage and koalas will starve," said Marie Tehan, state conservation and land management minister.

An adult koala eats more than a pound of leaves every day. Earlier this year, proposals by South Australia to cull up to 2,000 koalas due to overpopulation sparked a national outcry from animal lovers. The Australian Government resolved to move those animals but found there was a shortage of suitable sites. (Reuters)

Apartheid killer admits to remorse

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

EUGENE DE KOCK, apartheid's most notorious assassin, insisted yesterday that he was telling the truth about "dirty tricks" operations under white minority rule as the prosecution in his trial and others attacked his honesty.

The prosecution began their cross-examination of de Kock's testimony in mitigation of sentence amid attacks on his evidence from several prominent people, including Winnie Mandela. President Mandela's former wife had denounced de Kock as a "lunatic" and "liar" after he claimed that one of his victims was her "sex slave".

Revelations of this kind have prepared the testimony by de Kock, who ran a death squad in the Eighties and

against the former police colonel, suggesting he had ulterior motives in making some of his claims. "It's his hallucination," she said.

During his testimony earlier this week de Kock told the Pretoria Supreme Court how he had shot dead one of his men, Johannes Mubatha, after he defected to Mrs Mandela's "football club", the group of young men who acted as her bodyguards. De Kock said he heard from a police colleague that Mubatha had complained about being Mrs Mandela's "sex slave".

Revelations of this kind have prepared the testimony by de Kock, who ran a death squad in the Eighties and

early Nineties, after he took the stand on Monday for the first time in his trial. He has been convicted on 89 charges, including six murders.

His testimony has provided the most damning evidence yet against the former regime. He has implicated P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk, the former Presidents, in clandestine operations against government opponents.

De Kock has sought to cast aside suggestions by his former superiors that he was a rogue policeman and during testimony yesterday swung between justification and remorse as he reflected on his life as state assassin. He said the death squads failed and

only inflicted pain and suffering.

De Kock said his wife and children left him and emigrated after he told her about his work. He said at times he wished he had never been born, and felt "tainted and dirty" for the suffering he had inflicted.

Anton Ackerman, for the prosecution, pointed out that de Kock had previously lied under oath during investigations and suggested that he was good actor. De Kock admitted that he had lied before several commissions of inquiry and in court cases, but he said he was now being truthful because his back was against the wall.

Peres bows out of race

SHIMON PERES, right, the former Israeli Prime Minister and the main architect of the Palestinian peace accords, said yesterday he would not be a candidate for the premiership at the next elections in 2000 (Ross Dunn writes). The front-runner to succeed Mr Peres, 73, is Ehud Barak, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli defence forces. He is expected to be challenged by Haim Ramon, the former militant union leader.



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Loving God and loving a priest

Clelia Podestá shocked the Vatican by marrying an Argentinian bishop and writing their story. Margaret Hebblethwaite reports

On July 28, 1996, a Roman Catholic bishop was seen at Mass hand-in-hand with a woman. This was not the Right Rev Roderick Wright, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. No, this was the Argentinian bishop, Jerónimo Podestá, and his wife, Clelia.

The occasion was an International Congress of Married Catholic Priests and their Families in Brasília. I was invited to give one of the addresses, because I, too, married a priest — the late Vatican expert Peter Hebblethwaite.

Clelia and Jerónimo had natural authority. They had strength and grace and wisdom. I asked Jerónimo if he was the only married Catholic bishop. He replied: "I am the only one who dares show his face."

Jerónimo and Clelia are now advanced in years, but the early days of their love is told in a book she published in July, *Mi nombre es Clelia* (My name is Clelia) is a response to the Vatican officials who would refer to her only as "that woman".

So much of what she says resonates with my own knowledge of how loving God and loving a priest can be intertwined. From her book, this is her story.

Clelia Laro married very young, and the marriage broke down after ten years, leaving her with six daughters. She met the Bishop of Avellaneda in 1966. Jerónimo Podestá had pioneered a forward-looking, pastoral plan in his working-class diocese, forming teams of worker priests and urging his clergy to be concerned with local problems.

Clelia wrote after their first meeting: "It was as if we had known each other always. With men like that, how different the Church would be." Meanwhile Jerónimo was making his own notes: "I see something audacious in that decided woman, who has no inhibitions... She speaks to me with great supernatural love

and clear human affection, and I feel that she brings me a message."

A few weeks later Clelia went to see Jerónimo again, and he took her into the oratory, gave her Communion and knelt down beside her. "I felt the presence of God," she wrote. She offered to put his untidy room in order, and he replied: "No. You are going to help me put the Church in order."

In a letter that Christmas, Clelia wrote: "Dear Jerónimo, I asked God why I love like this: I did not want to love, it hurts... Your hands, Jerónimo, I love your hands that consecrate and bless... your lips that give out His Word, your eyes that reflect

'I asked
God why I
loved you
like this. I
did not
want to'

God, your feet that do not tire with travelling to announce the Gospel."

On January 2, 1967, Jerónimo wrote back: "Dear Clelia, God has united us so much. He has united us in one mission and a common vocation... I love you so much, with all my being."

But the Church authorities, in collusion with the military Government of General Juan Carlos Onganía, lost little time. Clelia believed correctly that spies were set on them.

The Nuncio (the representative of the Pope in Argentina) paid a surprise visit to Jerónimo before January was out, bringing two archbishops to fulfil the requirements for a "canonical admonition". Yet as far as Clelia and Jerónimo could see, their friendship was not scandalous.

The net tightened after

Pope Paul VI wrote his famous encyclical *Populorum Progressio* on poverty and injustice. Jerónimo got into trouble with the Nuncio for proclaiming the teaching too enthusiastically, and he went to Rome for an audience with the Pope.

Jerónimo suspected that personal accusations had been made and spoke honestly about his relationship with Clelia. The Pope listened with eyes closed and face tensed. Jerónimo said his conscience reproached him for nothing, but the Pope told him that did not square with what he had heard, and he should root this affection out.

After the meeting Jerónimo cried. The Nuncio presented him with a letter of resignation. He signed, asking that the resignation should not take effect until he had had another audience with the Pope. Today he still feels his resignation was elicited by trickery.

Clelia was granted a meeting with Cardinal Giovanni Benelli. He told her that women should remain hidden in the Church as the Virgin remained hidden in the Gospels. She told him that if he really loved the Church he should change his clothes and live for a year in the world.

Like every tale of love between a woman and an ordained celibate, the story of Clelia and Jerónimo is marked with tenderness and struggle. But there is something more. Behind and beyond the human love is a reaching out to something transcendent. It is enough to understand why Clelia prefers to speak of "priestly couples" rather than of "married priests".

Jerónimo added a few words. Clelia's concern with the priesthood, he said, was the "determining thread of this story, which is an affirmation of woman, of liberty and of the priestly meaning of life."

● *Mi nombre es Clelia* is published by Editorial Heroes, Santiago de Chile.

I haven't been so close to models — now I'm depressed

Vogue sent Ruby Wax to Paris to report on the haute couture shows. This is her verdict from the front row at Versace

It is really life and death where you are seated at these shows. Women have opened veins and bled to death if they are placed in a back row, because it means their life in fashion is *finito*. All I want to say here is I am in seat 1A and in every tongue of every country around the world, I hear the phrase: "Who the *** is she?"

Eurobitches, who have never smiled in their lives, whose facial muscles have never even moved in any sort of upwards motion, now use their fingers to hoik their skins up into a horrible, smile-like position — aimed at me. Everyone thinks I must be someone. Even I start to believe this. Across the runway from me is Elton John and his friend, who is wearing a top made of bronze chain mail. I shout over: "I love your tits." He smiles appreciatively.

The show starts. I know this because a swarm of paparazzi crushes my feet. First we see a giant naked photo of Kate Moss and her nipples and I wonder what the hell we're supposed to be buying. Are the nips for sale, or what? Then the photo parts, the lights dim, sexy music starts and the stick insects begin their parade.

Out they come, bones on stilettos. It doesn't matter what the magazines tell you; colours may change, the hemline may go up or down, but what's really "in" fashion, year after year, is tall, tall skeletons. I have never seen models close up and I suddenly become very depressed. My skin in no way resembles what covers these people. Theirs is flawless. Tawny, tawny, tawny. I have to buy this colour; they grow it.

They gracefully move their long legs, taking hours to rotate them in those hard, jutting hips. I am in awe. This is what these women do for a living. They walk up. They walk down. And all of them, before they swivel off in the other direction, look really angry at someone who seems to be hanging inches from the ceiling in the distance. From the earlier exultation of sitting in 1A, I sink into a bubbling mass of self-loathing and depression. Internally I say: "This is what women are supposed to look like, you... you runt."

After the show, we all have to kiss Versace, who is as thrilled to meet me as I am when I get a yeast infection. And in a huge motorway-crash pile-up of Dior bags and facelifts, we squish into the Ritz bar where the Euro-rich gather at the champagne troughs.

I'm sitting with Lucinda and Alex, the theme being the death of the jacket. Mario, Vogue's photographer, is described to me as "soooooo funny", and you have to beg to be shot by him, no matter how big you are. He looks through me till I jokingly kick him in the nuts. He then dribbles some gossip our way, as we whoop the free olives.

Linda Evangelista has lost weight. This is all-important, 'cause her career was dipping last year, due to a few chins. The reason being that her lung collapsed on an airplane, and she had to be stitched up from her flanks to her shoulder and she couldn't do sit-ups, thus the chin. But now thank God, she's chain-smoking and thin again.

We were then all, en masse, transported to the Versace party for food, though no one present had ever eaten anything in their lives. Before I go on, I just want to say I had done a television show at



Wax and the impossible dream. "This is what women are supposed to look like, you runt"

The real
fashion,
year after
year, is
tall, tall
skeletons

not to ask stupid questions. After a few lewd comments from the press, Mickey explained that 9½ Weeks, part one, was not about "***ing", as the press implied, but a "mental thing". Also, they weren't sure who the new girl was going to be in part two, so please don't ask. I stood up, introduced myself as Ruby Wax, BBC, volunteered to be "the new girl" and said, even though it was more of a mental thing he was doing, he was fantastic at schupping. I was thrown out.

Now cut to the Versace party and who sits down next to me? Mickey. He introduces to me the girl beside him as his co-star in 9½ Weeks, Part Two. My life is like a sitcom. Mickey doesn't remember me or anything, so he tells me how much he admires his co-star. I say, if you like her so



God

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SECTION 2



A jagged little pill to swallow: Caitlin Moran on the fact that women rock stars only succeed if they appeal to men — Arts, pages 32-34

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مكتبة الأصل

'You can admire Thatcher and support Labour'

The unimpeachably rich Bob Gavron has come to the aid of the Labour Party with £500,000 because he feels "comfortable with the party" at last. Since he is just the kind of benefactor they need, they want him to come out and say so. Until now, he has kept a low profile: "I never wanted to become well-known principally for making money."

With his woolly white curls, nut-brown face, shoe-button eyes and clownishly toothsome smile, he increasingly resembles Harpo Marx: the first person to tell him so was Vitas Gerulaitis, in a Tokyo nightclub. Walking his dogs on Hampstead Heath each morning in a curious hat with earflaps, he would never be taken for a tycoon. Socially he is engaging and unassuming. But as his old Oxford friend Jeremy Isaacs points out, nobody gets to be where Gavron is without thumping a few tables; and thump he does, at Royal Opera House board meetings.

As a cultivated businessman who made his millions from printing, he has been wooed by politicians before. Bill Rodgers tried to recruit him as a potential SDP peer in the early 1980s, but Gavron, who thought Barbara Castle's *In Place of Strife* "brilliant", had by then become something of a Thatcherite: "I was never a Tory. Absolutely not! But you can admire Lady Thatcher and still be a Labour Party supporter."

Gavron grew up, elder son of a Labour-voting patent lawyer, in Hampstead Garden Suburb. The Mandelsons were neighbours: Peter's father, Tony, the advertising manager of the *Jewish Chronicle*, took young Bob for his first espresso coffee in Soho. He went to Michael Foot's old Quaker school, Leighton Park at Reading, then Oxford, where he played Buttons to Ned Sherrin's Fairy Queen (Nigel Lawson was a chorus boy), was literary editor of *Cherwell*, and read law. At Oxford Labour Club, where he was impressed by the fiery oratory of "old Stansgate", Tony Benn's father, he knew Gerald Kaufman — "but I was just as friendly with Michael Heseltine. I would never not be friendly with someone just because of their political views."

"But I've never been really passionate about politics, until now. This is the first time I

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



don't feel I have to adapt myself to support Labour. I think a lot of Labour people had to adapt themselves in the past. I'm comfortable with the Labour Party now. I like and trust Tony Blair."

He first met Blair at a birthday party chez Blair's friend Charlie Falconer QC. Gavron later invited Blair to an Institute for Public Policy Research dinner for industrialists and Shadow ministers. Blair, then employment spokesman, spoke of his plan to reverse some Tory union reforms. Gavron, who had given £100,000 to Neil Kinnock's election campaign, was unhappy: he invited Blair to meet him privately.

"Blair argued his case well," Gavron says. He would never claim to have influenced Blair — but Blair's views have certainly changed.

Gavron trained as a barrister but "to delay the life-sentence of a career" took an executive traineeship with a jobbing printer in Soho, which meant wielding a broom on the first day.

"I middle-class people go into the printing trade, it's assumed that you must be interested in fine art prints or old typefaces. I was interested in Marks and Spencer style, efficiency and reliability." For nine years he observed how "most printers regard customers as a nuisance". He borrowed £5,000 and took over an ailing company which he cautiously named St Ives rather than Gavron ("Supposing I went bust?") as one of its factories stood in the Huntingdonshire town. It grew into an

Bob Gavron is said to be a tycoon who always gets what he wants — so what made him want to hand over half a million pounds to Labour?

international company producing 100 million books annually and 600 magazines, of which the glossiest is *The World of Interiors*.

His first wife, Hannah, mother of his two sons, Simon and the novelist Jeremy, was the daughter of T.R. ("Tosco") Fyvel, the literary editor of *Tribune*, a great influence on Gavron. "He would have been a Blairite today," Gavron says.

Hannah, who had shone at RADA, took a degree at Bedford College after the birth of their first son. Her PhD thesis, published as *The Captive Wife*, became a feminist tract. In her preface she wrote: "Above all, I owe thanks to my husband Robert Gavron, for his invaluable help, encouragement and support." But she did not see its publication. She took her own life before her 30th birthday. Gavron, stricken, was "in a daze" for about two years.

Nicky, his second wife, mother of his daughters Jessica and Sarah, became a Labour activist: she is Haringey's education committee chairman. He met his third wife, Kate, through publishing. She, too, is now doing her PhD (after a First in anthropology at LSE) and is chairman of Carcanet. Gavron's poetry imprint. It is a telling testimonial to Gavron that Nicky, Kate and three mothers-in-law, all remain friends.

When he stepped down in 1993 after 29 years as chairman, St Ives was worth £400 million. He remains the biggest shareholder. "But I don't stalk the corridors. I take a collegiate attitude to running a company. People will call me

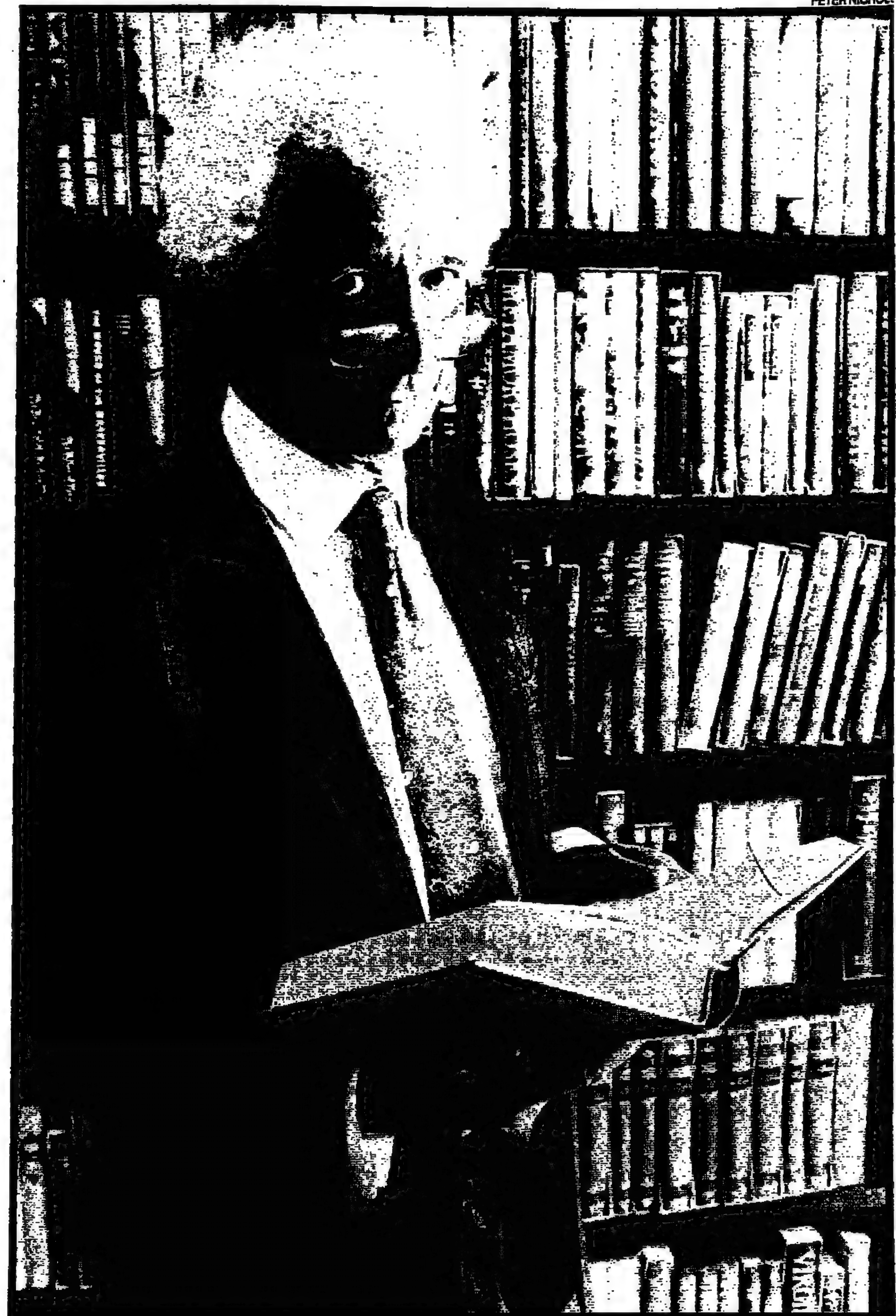
autocratic, but I believed in passing shares around. When we floated, there were several millionaires." He could have become even richer had he not been such a financial conservative. "As a lawyer, I think you should be meticulously straight and honest. I don't go in for tax avoidance. I don't like renting or borrowing."

For his 66th birthday last Friday his children gave him a Wilson Sledgehammer tennis racket with which to carry on beating his wife. Guests who play tennis on the court in his garden are invited to plunge into his warm subterranean pool afterwards, and are instructed not to bother with swimsuits. Naked bathing is also the rule at his house in Provence (in Peter Mayle's village — but Gavron got there first).

His manorial Highgate house formerly belonged to the pianist Clifford Curzon, whose vast music room is now Gavron's library, with cupola and Arts & Crafts decor, and a concealed button that lets down a full-size cinema screen. He is a bit of a film buff, a dabbler who also likes chamber music, jazz, opera, ballet, books. Tuesday this week found him at the launch of Brian Brivati's life of Gaitskill (Gavron's hero) in London University's Senate House; where Roy Hattersley and Barbara Castle locked horns in an "old" Labour debate. Gavron was accompanied by Cressida and Julia, Gaitskill's daughters.

He has always taken long holidays and time off for tennis and squash; he never worked long hours. "I'm a delegator. And a good people-picker. If you motivate people, they will be worthy of your trust." Two of his best friends in the industry were Christopher Bland (now BBC Chairman) and Michael Green, of Carlton. When offered the chance to buy the Folio Society, he was told that Bland and the Saatchis were also interested, and "signed a cheque over lunch". How much? "Oh I don't remember darling. Either side of a million I think."

The Folio, the bibliophiles' book club, approaches its 50th anniversary with smart new headquarters (which cost Gavron £2 million) and a rising membership. His first suggestion as chairman was that they drop plans to do



Bob Gavron: a keen business brain beneath the woolly white curls and growing resemblance to Harpo Marx

Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. It became a top seller. Whenever he intervenes now, they remind him: "Remember Gibbon."

He backed Carmen Callil when she set up the feminist press Virago, and later part-owned it, until their acrimonious split last year. Callil, unhappy about Kate Gavron becoming chairman of her brainchild after her own resignation, proposed the sale of the company to Little, Brown. It was the end of a 30-year friendship; Callil and Gavron have not spoken since. He

says: "Carmen always gets what she wants." She says: "Bob always gets what he wants."

He has plenty of tables to thump, as one of nature's committee men: on the board of the National Gallery and Covent Garden, vice-president of the Poetry Society, and a trustee and treasurer of the IPPR. Tessa Blackstone's think-tank. As a potential Labour peer he would surely be an obvious choice to run the Arts Council? Gavron cannot possibly comment. "But obviously, I can run things," he says.

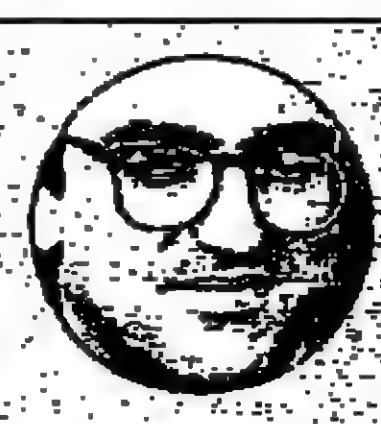
Everybody do the Cabinet reshuffle

NIETZSCHE would not believe in a God who could not dance. Barbara Castle has no time for a politician who cannot. Hugh Gaitskill just was not her cup of tea, she sniped at a party this week to launch a crisp new biography of the late Labour leader. Castle could not stomach his "cold, calculating intolerance" towards Bevan.

"Mind you," she added, "he was a very good dancer — and to me that is more important than politics in a man."

At first it may look like a tiny sliver of political wisdom. But this gem could yet see us through the grim party conference season ahead.

If only we judged MPs by their quicksteps instead of their soundbites, then the late Victor Silvester — not Sir



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Joe Joseph

Bernard Ingham or Peter Mandelson — would be Westminster's legendary spin-doctor. Socially ambitious women would boast of how they had danced with a man who danced with a girl who danced with the Foreign Secretary. Political pundits would tune in to *Come Dancing*, not *Newsnight*.

Dancing, like politics, is all about anticipation. Treading on a partner's toes would be the equivalent of the political

gaffe, reshown endlessly on news bulletins. Kenneth Clarke's soft-soled Hush Puppies would become an electoral asset as voters wondered whom they would fox trot with on polling day.

Which of us would not race to watch the party leaders' speeches at Blackpool and Bournemouth if it meant we could see Tony Blair in satin bell-bottoms dancing the tango, with Harriet Harman's fishnetted-gusset laced

around his arse and a red rose-stem between his teeth?

While Tony tangoed, John Major would be gently twisting with Norma. Pro-Europeans would embrace Ceroc, the new continental dance craze. Euro-sceptics would stick to a stiff-backed waltz. James Goldsmith would not move until everyone had been given a chance to choose which dance they really wanted.

In the middle of the ballroom, Paddy Ashdown and his fit troops would be line dancing, all looking gung-ho in their cowboy boots but not really going anywhere.

Cicero, as astute a politician as you could hope to rumba with, thought that no sober man danced unless he happened to be mad. Luckily for us, most politicians are.

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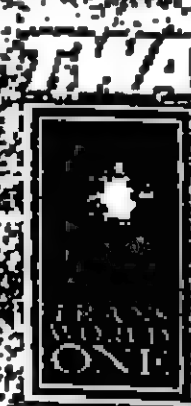
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Let sink schools go private

Robert Skidelsky says Tory reforms are too timorous

Educational standards in our schools are too low and need to be raised. This central point, which all political parties accept, was ignored on this page on Wednesday by Simon Jenkins, who cheerfully claimed that outside London and a few big cities all is well with British education. What are the facts? Last year's national tests of 11-year-olds show most pupils failing to achieve expected British standards in literacy and numeracy. Cross-country tests at 13 show that they fail even more miserably to measure up to international standards. Since the 1960s our standards have slipped relatively, perhaps absolutely. And it is not because we spend less money on education than similar countries. It is the value per pound spent which is inferior.

There are three ways one can think of to increase the returns on educational spending. The government can order all teachers and schools to behave in certain ways. Or it can allow schools to select by ability. Or it can encourage schools to compete with each other for custom.

Since 1988, the Conservatives have tried the first, "top-down" approach. They have imposed a national system on the 25,000 state primary and comprehensive schools, with production plans (the National Curriculum), output targets ("levels of attainment"), and testing and inspection systems. Additionally, the Government has taken in hand the training of teachers. This approach, modelled on Soviet planning, was adopted with a straight face by a Conservative Government committed to variety and choice.

Simon Jenkins claims that "central government diktat" is restoring standards. But the evidence is against him. Robert Campbell, director of education studies at Warwick University, finds that, after eight years of "top-down" reform, literacy and numeracy in primary schools have not improved, and may even have declined — a judgment endorsed by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. The reason is not hard to find. The Government has set up a system which encourages everyone to cheat, from the top down. What you get is not a "central diktat", but a tacit collusion between the "stakeholders" of the planned service (Government, teacher unions, LEAs) to pretend that the plan is being fulfilled ("standards are rising") when in fact it is not. But the day of reckoning can be long postponed by the many stratagems for reclassifying failure as success.

Apparently disenchanted with the results of the "top-down" approach, the Government has started to espouse a selective school system. "A grammar school in every town," John Major recently proclaimed. Grant-maintained schools might become the new grammar schools: the City Technology Colleges the nucleus of a new technical school sector. Other schools might specialise in vocational studies, music, drama, sport, and so on.

The key point of this meritocratic model is selection of pupils by schools. Its political weakness is the association of selection with the old 11-plus. Labour's version of selectivity

is to "group by ability" within comprehensives. This ignores the difficulty of developing a selective ethos within schools founded on the principle of non-selection. Both Tory and Labour versions of selection pull against the logic of "top-down" control. Hence the widespread suspicion that education policy is in a mess.

Conservative ministers have never much believed in parental choice — except as regards their own children. Yet this is the governing principle of the highly successful independent sector. No one denies that private schools compete for the custom of parents. No one denies that standards in most independent schools are higher than in most state schools — without any "top-down" planning. So why can't we think of this unplanned, unmeritocratic system as the model for our national education — with all schools in the private sector and competing for custom on the basis of quality and price?

One obvious reason is that most parents cannot afford to "go private". But suppose that every family received an annual earmarked cheque for each school-aged child. This is the voucher principle. The voucher is simply a device for giving parents the power to buy the education they want for their children, rather than having education allocated through the tax system. Schools and teachers would be directly accountable to parents — not to governments and their quangos.

Critics say that most parents do not know or care enough about education to choose wisely. But information about schools can be easily supplied. And why should it be thought that caring about education is the monopoly of those who send their children to private schools? These are classic diversionary tactics.

The transition from a state to a private school system cannot take place overnight. But there is an obvious starting point. The worst of our state schools are in inner-city areas. Why not declare such areas "education enterprise zones" and offer to lease the lowest performing schools in them to private charitable educational trusts freed from detailed regulations? School payments could be done by voucher in any zone in which a minimum number of these "private" schools was operating.

Simon Jenkins writes "at least Skidelsky's sink schools would be rich, albeit at a huge price to the Treasury". Wrong: there would be no price to the Treasury, since the State already pays far more per pupil in "sink" schools than the national average. But the main point is that under private management they would no longer be sink schools — any more than the Catholic schools in the slums of New York are sink schools.

Such a scheme could be adopted without any commitment to universal private education. But it could also be a first step to the wider system I have in mind. Let us consign national plans and 11-pluses to the history books where they belong, and trust private initiative driven by parental choice to raise national standards.

Lord Skidelsky's pamphlet *A Question of Standards* is published by Politeia.



A tale of two colonies

Tibet's martyrdom continues — and next July Britain will hand over the Hong Kong people to the perpetrators

Some of my regular readers, when they see either of my King Charles's Heads — Tibet and Hong Kong — tend to flee the room, giving no forwarding address. But I have to say that I do not hang on about these things for fun. The destruction of Tibet and its people — now almost complete — is one of the greatest crimes in history, and the Hong Kong handover from a democratic country to a country that does not even know what democracy is is hardly less wicked.

But now something has happened which will hardly change the world, but may at least raise an eyebrow or two in a place that had before been eyebrowless. Hitherto, as far as I know, there has been in the United States no serious and country-wide discussion of the plight of Hong Kong. But now *Newsweek* — one of the most serious and widely read weeklies of American magazines, and truly worldwide in reach — has signalled that Hong Kong, and not only Hong Kong, is in difficulty, and may soon be in danger. And when *Newsweek* gives a subject six pages, no fewer, with a striking picture on every page, something — something very remarkable — has happened.

You may scoff. But put the pieces together. A well-known American magazine: the days coming closer to the handover: millions living democratically instantly to be turned into Chinese subjects who enjoy no guarantee of freedom: what?

True: the United States is perhaps the most inward-looking country in the world, and only one in a hundred American citizens has ever heard of Hong Kong. But when they do, their generosity will make up for their ignorance. For the unique — truly unique — situation that the people of Hong Kong have found themselves in, through no fault of their own, merits exactly the kind of rescue that Americans are best at. It would be a most extraordinary operation, but why not? That country could swallow a million Hong Kong refugees with ease — and one million is the number of those who want to get out and can't. Why not?

Why not? That question has been asked in *Newsweek*, most trenchantly, while our Foreign Office flaps a limp hand and says Hong Kong is just a playground for people like me. Anyone who knows Hong Kong well, or even mildly, knows of the great tycoons who have made giant fortunes in that tiny patch of land. They count their money in billions. American billions — but they count

their passports in ones. After all, if anything went wrong (by which I mean they ceased to rake in the money in billions) they would want only one passport to leave and settle in, say, New York. And what about the roughly five million who would be left behind, because they do not count their money in billions?

We have to acknowledge the truth (which is very rarely to be found in the Foreign Office), that the Chinese authorities have already broken the flimsy first promises they made. The Chinese Government has already made it clear that it intends to override the wishes of the people of Hong Kong in two important areas: the commitment to abolish the present Legislative Council and the announcement that Chinese military personnel will not be subject to civil law in the territory. (Yet again, the Foreign Office will trot out its mantra — "China would never cut off its nose to spite its face".) And China has ignored many an olive branch, and I fear that many another olive branch will be ignored before Peking rejoins civilisation. But, you see, the very rich in Hong Kong have no such worries: Covenants, Basic Law, transitional arrangements — these are nothing to the tycoons.

What happened to the organisation created in Peking called the Preparatory Committee for managing the transition? "The committee is already operating in the classic Communist mould... the obedient Preparatory Committee will give way to a puppet legislature that Peking will install... Protests have already broken out in Hong Kong... but what may anger the democracy advocates most is that China has found it so easy to recruit so many of the biggest tycoons in Hong Kong to its cause."

That's nothing, but much can come from nothing. More and more, there are clashes with the police in Hong Kong, and don't think that they are about drunkards reeling home. Already there are demonstrations almost daily, and even the most

innocent visitor would not mistake their purpose: they are demonstrations against the Communists. As the day comes closer — it is July 1, next year — more and more people are trying to get out before the gong sounds. True, there are many like the tycoons who have made their financial peace with Peking, but very many more will be held in the grip of real worry or even panic. And where will the panicky ones go?

Stop and think, what we would feel if we were told that on July 1, next year we would all be under the regime of communism. Would we not demonstrate in the streets?

I would. And if one of the most senior and powerful Communist — Li Peng — arrived from Peking to make sure that five million hitherto free men and women would not have to bow the knee, would you not demonstrate? Not demonstrate? Not even when

police reinforcements moved in as the crowd surged forward towards Mr Li's car. Demonstrators complained of rough police treatment as they attempted to present Mr Li with a petition... And did you read the little argument when Li Peng was to discuss the sale of French aeroplanes, and somehow the conversation took a different turn, and these monstrous, shocking, terrible, hideously dangerous words were spoken: M. Chirac had "... underlined the importance France attaches to these democratic universal values". And the Chinese insisted that those monstrous, shocking, terrible, hideously dangerous words were to be expunged, and they were.

I have perhaps painted Hong Kong in colours somewhat too dark: time will show. If I have, I shall be the first to declare that I was wrong. Yet something tugs at my coat, and I find myself in a shadow, merely a shadow — but the Chinese occupation of Tibet is a dreadful and murderous story, and I have now to add something hardly less dreadful. You will find it almost unbelievable when I say that the Chinese occupa-

tion of Tibet has now reached a greater level of madness and cruelty altogether. Believe it or not, when pictures of the Dalai Lama are hung outside monasteries, the Chinese not only tear them down, but beat and torture the Buddhists — men and women alike — who put them up. From a bystander, this:

Some people were walking, some people could not walk. They were holding each other and some were crying or screaming... Their whole faces were sore and covered with blood... on the other truck I saw some legs hanging out of the back... up to 80 people, at least 30 women, had been injured in a clash with the authorities.

Pause for a moment, and repeat what it was that brought out the bloody, cruel and violent in the Chinese repressors: it was that at some monasteries, the monks had hung out pictures of the Dalai Lama. But that is nothing. Here is what the Chinese said, after what they had done. It comes from the Chinese Government's *Tibet Daily* (the words themselves are a vileness). In a front-page editorial, it called on policemen in the region to step up the crackdown on separatists and criminals amid reports of anti-Chinese protests and the sealing off of monasteries.

In the "Strike Hard" crackdown on crime we must relentlessly pursue and show no mercy to those splittists who transport, sell and hide explosives and firearms... the crackdown on crime should include a campaign with the death penalty imposed whenever warranted.

There has been more brutal repression, some miles from Lhasa. Three monks were shot and injured by the "security forces"; several others in the party had broken legs, head wounds and severe beatings. Why? These monks and nuns have no weapons, and would not use them if they had. They do not try to overthrow the brutal rulers of what was once Tibet. They want nothing but a tiny handful of food and the time to meditate.

So why are they persecuted? I can answer. Deep down in these men, so deep that they have no idea that it is there, they know they are doing evil, but the thought cannot reach the surface, and never will, unless one of those holy men brings it up.

P.S. From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong: A sweeping purge of Tibet's... temples has begun... Vast complexes of temples and domestic buildings... have been the focus of repeated crackdowns... aimed at "bases of splittist activities" forcing monks and nuns to hurl sacred writings into cesspits...

Bernard Levin

Philip Howard



■ Soon the best golf will be played by Daleks

This robot caddy sounds just the ticket for those of us who ought to be made to shout "Fore!" before we punt. It has been developed in Miami from the computerised navigational systems of space flight. So where the human caddy shakes his watch in disbelief as though it were a compass, the Dalek caddy lets no tremor of contempt disturb the even whine of its voice. For it cannot sneer at your backswing for looking like Demi Moore (no more, thank you) in this week's film *Striptease*, trying to struggle out of a dress too tight around the shoulders. It cannot see you. And even if it could, its microcircuits would not connect with the comparison. It does not go to the movies. Even on a course as unplayable as the Matterhorn, the robot detects your ball unerringly by microchip-sensor, tells you how far you lie from the hole, what hazards yawn ahead and which club to use. And it does not raise its shaggy eyebrows when you then hack the ball backwards between your legs. It has no eyebrows to raise.

Samuel Johnson must have been thinking about golf when he wrote: "It is unjust to claim the privileges of age and retain the playthings of childhood." But if grown men are going to carry on playing silly games (and they are), golf is best. Its stars are generally well-behaved role models, because their game is against their own errors rather than against their opponents. So the wild displays of self-congratulation or petulance that shame other games would put golfers off their stroke. There is little bad behaviour and not much snorting of substances to calm the yips. Professional discipline wins the big prizes. (Though Tommy Bolt, the American golfer famous for his graceful swing and temper, after lipping out six straight putts, shook his fist at the heavens and shouted: "Why don't You come down and fight like a man!")

And because it has acquired so many laws and conventions, golf is the best game for the nursery delight in nit-picking. Its vocabulary is interesting. Golf itself is said to be one of the words to slip into English from the Celtic languages. In Gaelic *golf* means a blow with the hand, and an upper-crusty pronunciation of golf is *goff*. The Dutch (and others) disagree, claiming the etymology for *kolf*, the Dutch kolf for several games that consist of trying to whack a ball with a stick more or less well adapted for the purpose. And much golf jargon, such as *putter* and *nick*, sounds as though it came across the North Sea to Scotland.

One of the stained-glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral has a picture of a man trying to blast his way out of a bunker centuries before the Royal and Ancient had discovered a profitable use for sandy wastelands by the sea. Much modern golf slang comes from American whirly: for example, *birdy* and its fledgling *eagles* and *albatrosses*, hatched from the early 19th-century American slang of "a bird" as the bee's knees and the cat's pajamas.

Golfing literature is richer than that of any other sport, including even cricket and hunting. For the best sporting journalists are attracted to the mysteries of golf. And the golfing fiction by Wodehouse and others is as pleasing as a well-struck 60ft putt hitting the back of the hole, shooting three feet into the air and falling back down the hole with a gratifying clunk. On the Master's golden Never-Never Course, the Wrecking Crew are pottering away 200 yards down the fairway about to get an ugly shock in the seat of the Gravedigger's plus-fours, some millionaire is playing another winner to take butter, and at the end, boy gets girl, and fades out into clink and twitting of birdies.

This new Dalek caddy is brilliant copy for a Wodehouse romance among the slicers and hookers. Somebody would sabotage somebody else's caddy to give the wrong club and the wrong advice, culminating in the stock Wodehousean splash into deep water. I hope the Master is busy on it up in some celestial clubhouse.

But to go the whole hog, the space-age golfing Einsteins should invent robots able to hit balls with the scientific precision of a guided missile. The Daleks could then play the game better than we do. And leave us to enjoy conversation and dog walk without humiliation.

P.H.S

TV times

THE HONCHOS at ITV are gearing up for a new campaign to move ITN's *News at Ten* to an earlier slot in the evening schedule. They failed to shift the flagship news programme three years ago, when John Major objected to the plan. The prospect of a Labour government, however, has given them new impetus.

ITV Network Centre says officially that it has no intention to move the news programme. But there is no doubt that board members are still itching to shift *News at Ten*, and they apparently believe that a Blair government might let them.

Many ITV companies support a switch to the early evening, saying that it would give them freedom to schedule adult drama after the 9pm watershed. MPs believe, however, that it would restrict coverage of parliamentary debates, although the companies have said they would add an extra bulletin at about 11pm.

Yesterday, a television source said: "The ITV companies have all but rubber stamped the deal to

move the news in anticipation of a Blair government. They do not believe that Blair would intervene to the same extent as Major."

They may be counting their chickens, however. Peter Mandelson, an influential figure in the Blair camp, sponsored a Commons motion when the change was last mooted, calling for *News at Ten* to be saved.



Vinnie run-on part?

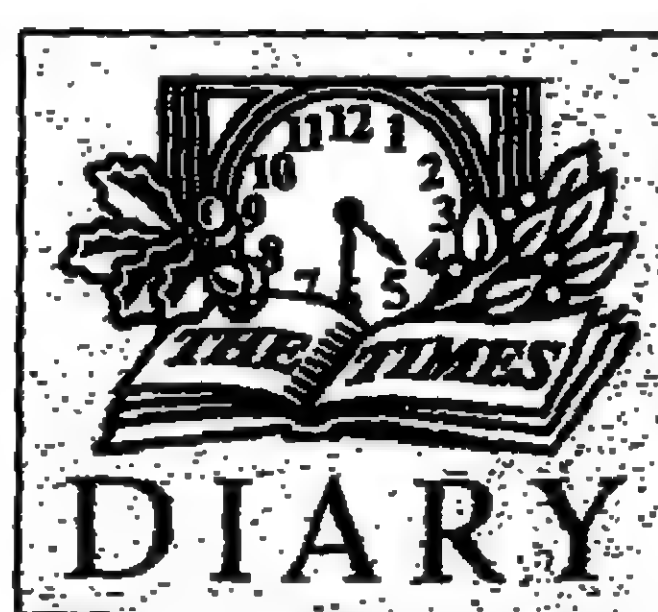
● To his already bursting list of accomplishments, Vinnie Jones, footballer, crack shot, and Gary Lineker baiter, wants to add another: an appearance on the West End stage. Jones, master of the head butt and scything tackle, is said to have been badgering Sir Cameron Mackintosh for the part of Bill Sykes in the musical *Oliver*.

Michael taken

EITHER Michael Portillo has Christ-like powers, or the German army is guilty of some serious media manipulation. The Defence Secretary was on a whistlestop tour this week of Bosnia with Volker Rühle, his German counterpart, and was visiting a Franco-German field hospital at Trogir, near Split in nearby Croatia.

While he was shaking hands with patients inside the Mash tent, a German soldier lay outside strapped to a stretcher at a 45 degree angle in a military ambulance. He waited 15 minutes for the visitors to interview him, a drip attached to his wrist along with other medical gadgets, apparently close to death.

When Portillo and Rühle emerged from the tent they talked



to the gravely injured soldier. They were then rushed off to catch their planes home, at which point the injured German soldier jumped up from his stretcher, removed the drip from his wrist and slapped his thigh laughing.

Mamma mia

CUSTOMERS at one of London's best-known Italian restaurants were taken aback the other day to find a workman in their soup. Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street is in the midst of refurbishment, but a portion of the restaurant has remained open for business.

Earlier this week a couple were tucking into lunch when one of the painters joined their table unin-

vited. Dispensing with formal introductions, he arrived through the ceiling, landing in a fountain of cutlery and wine glasses on his back in the middle of the table. "There was an almighty bang and then there he was," says one on-looker. "The amazing thing was he wasn't badly hurt. He just rubbed his elbow rather ruefully."

● Few sights were more embarrassing at the fifth anniversary party for The Ministry of Sound, top rave spot for teenage boppers, than 30-plus Peter "snake-hips" Mandelson living in his tweed. Meanwhile James Palumbo, founder of the Ministry, ignored celebrities such as Mick Jagger to jaw on Mandelson as if hoping to be powerbroker in a new government.

Sit quietly

EARLIER this year I reported how the Queen's fidgeting and endless talking during a sitting for the notorious "snobby finger" portrait drove the artist almost to distraction. Now I learn that the Duke of Edinburgh is a gabbler too.

Fortunately, John Orr, who painted the portrait, shown here for the first time, is a tolerant sort.

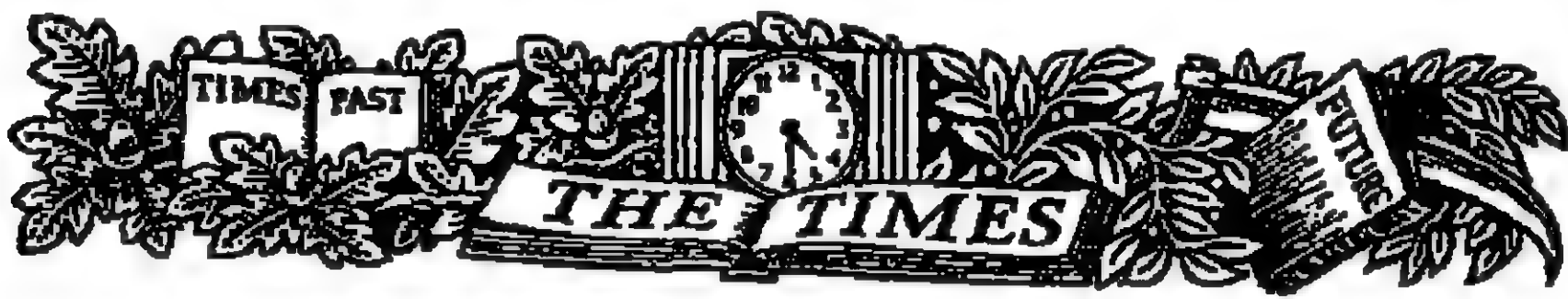


The garrulous Duke

"He didn't just answer questions with a short sentence, but would talk for an hour on a subject."

The portrait, which is to hang in the Naval & Military Club of which the Duke is President, is said to have delighted Prince Philip.

فكنا من الأصل



SERIOUS FARCE

The Maxwell affair must produce a wide-ranging review

Almost five years after the mysterious death of Robert Maxwell and the subsequent collapse of his business empire, the affair is, for the criminal law at least, finally over. It is difficult to see how any party, the defendants, their prosecutors, the City of London, or the taxpayer left with a bill exceeding £30 million, can be fully satisfied with events. There are two sets of questions that will be asked in the light of Mr Justice Buckley's decision. The first concerns the judgment of the Serious Fraud Office in pursuing this case despite their original defeat in January. The second is whether far-reaching reform is required in the entire matter of fraud.

On the first count the SFO will note that it never wanted two separate trials. It was forced into that position by the judgment of Mr Justice Phillips that their favoured model of a single 10-count indictment was unwieldy. It may further protest that the prospective second trial — involving an alleged £100 million fraud over the misuse of Berlitz International shares — was significantly different from the alleged theft of pension funds. Hence, the SFO contends, an acquittal in one was irrelevant to the other.

This reasoning ignored one factor. The defence in both instances would be identical: namely that Robert Maxwell was responsible for any criminal actions. That argument had survived a 131-day trial, a record 21-day testimony from Mr Kevin Maxwell, and an unprecedented 12-day jury deliberation. The overwhelming majority of legal opinion recommended abandoning the second endeavour. Having then wagered another £300,000 of public money despite that advice, the Serious Fraud Office cannot avoid additional scrutiny. It can point to an overall conviction rate of 62 per cent and has not lacked internal innovation. But doubts have been raised about whether investigation and prosecution of such situations should be in the hands of the same body. Although the Davie committee considered

and rejected major change only 18 months ago, fresh examination may still be required.

The broader issue has focused on whether conventional juries can cope with cases of such complexity. In January, the Serious Fraud Office hinted that the Government should replace them outright with selected specialists. That suggestion ran counter to a fundamental principle of British law and won little backing. Now the SFO's preferred solution would be smaller juries — with certain specified minimum qualifications such as GCSE Maths.

Such a scheme is more subtle but no more attractive. Fraud trials are hardly unique in being complicated. Furthermore, it seems curious for the SFO to conjecture that on the one hand it is virtually impossible to achieve convictions in these cases but on the other that it does so 62 per cent of the time. It also glosses over the fact that in the first Maxwell trial an opening 700-strong pool of potential jurors were called and intellectual aptitude was one of the means by which they were whittled down to the final unfortunate dozen. If the data is that detailed and demanding then it is hard to believe that even multiple GCSEs will save the poor layman.

The real area of inquiry should be the complexity of the cases not the jury system. The sorry saga of the last decade — from the Guinness convictions to the Maxwell acquittals — suggests that the criminal law has been brought into areas that would be dealt with better by either civil law or direct regulation, or, in some sectors, left alone entirely. Successive attempts at devising comprehensive formulas for fraud have proved incoherent. Unenforceable law is unacceptable law. As Parliament passed the widely criticised Financial Services Act, it can be blamed at least as much as the Serious Fraud Office. The law, if not exactly an ass, is well short of ideal. It is the House of Commons that must find a solution to this whole unsightly mess.

MISSION IMPROBABLE

Danger signals from the comic submariners of Pyongyang

The infiltration of South Korea by some 20 armed North Koreans emerging from a beached submarine is both bizarre and alarming. The details of what seems a scarcely credible operation have an anachronistic feel of a bad Cold War film. The North Koreans appear to have panicked after the operation went wrong; the submarine ran aground, and was spotted by a local taxi-driver. The hapless commandos, abandoning their arsenal, feared discovery and 11 committed mass suicide or were shot by their leader. The others escaped into the mountains but were hunted down. Only one has been captured alive so far and has been talking about the mission, the most serious infiltration from the North for 30 years.

What he has said — persuaded to talk after being plied with four bottles of local whisky — can only add to the bewilderment and alarm in Seoul and regional capitals. The landing was the fourth such espionage mission in less than a month. Hardliners in Pyongyang are as determined as ever to continue military reconnaissance missions in preparation for an eventual full-scale invasion of the South, which has been their military aim ever since the 1953 armistice. The South Koreans regularly run into ill-equipped and amateurish commando missions. The captured North Korean has now revealed that at least 1,000 agents, including an all-female squad, have been trained to carry out spying and sabotage missions.

South Korea has never underestimated the dangers of living next to the last Stalinist state in the world, one so secretive, belligerent and paranoid that its actions are neither predictable nor rational. There were hopes — mostly in Western capitals — that with the

death of Kim Il Sung, the autocratic founder of the Communist state, the way would be open to a more realistic assessment in Pyongyang of the military balance and North Korea's own desperate economic plight. Such hopes are premature. The military hardliners are as fanatically inculcated in Kim's doctrine as ever. The huge army, though ill-fed and poorly equipped, is still trained for imminent invasion, and North Korea's determination to develop nuclear weapons appears unchecked either by technical setbacks or outside political pressure.

More ominously, the failure by Kim's son, Kim Jong Il, to inherit all the powers and authority of his father suggests a continuing power struggle in Pyongyang. All this comes against a background of economic decline, natural catastrophe, corruption and mismanagement on a scale that has put up to 20 million people at risk of starvation. The South has tried to increase its leverage with rice shipments and emergency aid; the response has been, by turns, truculent or emollient, with North Korean officials seeming to accept a degree of openness and reform and then retreating into hostile secrecy.

North Korea has no friends. Its former allies, especially China, have attempted to counsel moderation but have little leverage and are as concerned as other neighbours by the threat of a desperate, pre-emptive strike to save an imploding regime. Neither United Nations protests nor American warnings appear to have effect. Patience, persistence, vigilance and a strong military preparedness are the only way of dealing with a country whose leaders have brought it to the brink of disaster and who seem quite prepared to bring others down in its fall.

WINE AND A BOX OF ROSES

A praline and a pichet day keep the doctor away

Science, so long a churlish presence at the gourmand's table, has lately proved itself a very welcome guest. For many years the path to prominence for the men in white coats was a prim one. Scientists anxious to emerge from behind their Bunsen burners and into the limelight did so most effectively by revealing the existence of life-threatening compounds lurking in hitherto innocent victuals. Butter was framed as a new serial killer. To tuck into a marbled steak was to gamble with the grim reaper more surely than if one were swallowing razor blades. But now comes news that two of the treats hitherto thought most wicked have been found by scientists to be, in every sense, life-enhancing.

Red wine and chocolate — the seducer's tools and the consolation of those crossed in love — have always influenced the operations of the heart. Now scientists believe they are also good for the arteries. Writing in *The Lancet*, researchers have revealed the existence of a substance in both which, far from straining the veins, acts on them with all the cleansing vigour of bran on other bits of internal piping. It is deliciously ironic that the research should come from California, America's decaffeinated zone, where the salads are more skimpily dressed than the lieguards of *Baywatch*. The raising of the bon-viveurs' banner in the precincts of the University of California is a victory as complete as Bruce's at Bannockburn.

World in another sense. Chocolate, like the potato and the Peking duck with sun-dried tomato pizza, is one of the few foods indigenous to America. The first European lips to taste the New World's dusky drink were those of proud Cortes when the Aztecs presented him with *xocolatl* in 1519. The Spanish kept the potion to themselves, and it only reached England in the 18th century. But since then, thanks to Mr Cadbury here and Mr Hershey in the USA, it has become the best thing with which to end dinner.

Wiser heads and fuller stomachs in Britain will greet the publication of the American data with the nonchalance of a fine judge of bloodstock seeing his hunch backed by the formbook. The accumulation of information helps reassure, but prior prejudice framed by instinct is always a better guide. How could confections as delicious as M. Suchard's and elixirs as seductive as Baron Rothschild's be anything other than beneficial? Experiences that exquisite, whether at the table, or in the boudoir, create such a sense of well-being that they act more effectively than anything from the apothecary.

It is too much to expect that a straitened public purse might allow chocolate on prescription much as, in more enlightened days, expectant mothers could claim a half of milk stout. However a vigorous campaign from the authorities to hymn the prophylactic virtues of Bordeaux and Bourville is the least we might expect. A praline and a pichet

Churchill's real vision of Europe

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, In your admirable leading article on Churchill's 1946 Zurich speech (September 18) you said that his conclusion on Britain's future role in Europe was "reasonably clear". Surely it is absolutely clear.

It is worth saying this since one still finds people claiming Churchill as a supporter of Britain being part of a federal European system ("Tory turmoil over Europe erupts again", later editions, September 19). Neither at Zurich nor later did he envisage such a future for this country, and detailed evidence beyond Zurich is available to prove this point.

Your leading article rather dismissed continuing arguments over where Churchill stood on this issue. As long as he is misrepresented in some quarters as favouring British membership of a "United States of Europe" professional historians are bound to put the record straight. I did in my essay *Churchill and Europe* (included in *Churchill by Robert Blake and Wm Roger Lewis* (Oxford University Press, 1993), and again in my recent book *Britain and European Union: Dialogue of the Deaf* (Macmillan, September 1996).

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords,
September 19.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Is it not ironic that the letter from Sir Edward Heath and his dwindling allies, calling in aid "Churchill's Zurich vision" was addressed to *The Independent*, given that it was written on the very day that your leading article finally exploded the oft-repeated myth that Churchill in 1946 called for Britain to submerge itself in a united Europe?

The signatories fall back on such wholly bogus arguments to keep alive the self-deceiving dream, especially beloved by former Foreign Secretaries and repeated in this latest letter, that Britain should continue to strive for "leadership of Europe". Some hope! If their opponents (including Churchill) are to be dubbed "little Englanders", they might more accurately be described as "Eurochauvinists".

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
House of Lords,
September 19.

From Mr Derek J. Pearmund

Sir, "Our greatest patriots have never been little Englanders," state the Tory grandees in their letter to *The Independent* dated September 18. Neither have they been "little Europeans". Our nation is, and always has been, a nation of international, global traders, and our greatest patriots have always recognised that.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK J. PEARMUND,
Timbers,
Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey,
September 19.

From Mr Colin Bullen

Sir, Dr Brivati's otherwise excellent article on Hugh Gaiskell (September 14) was marred by its unnecessary attack on contemporary opponents of the European Union. If Dr Brivati recognises that Gaiskell was motivated by honourable motives, why cannot he accept that others too may be moved by considerations which have nothing to do with xenophobia? Nevertheless, it is sobering to contemplate the fact that, were it not for Gaiskell's untimely death, he would almost certainly have become Prime Minister in 1964, and UK policy would have then been so oriented that it is highly unlikely Heath would have had the opportunity to fulfil his dream of submerging Britain into the European superstate.

On such a relatively small matter as the health of one man do the fates of nations turn.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BULLEN
(National Membership Secretary,
UK Independence Party),
119 Douglas Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg ("Deflate the big idea, not our economies", September 16) sets out some of the consequences implicit in the adoption of a single European currency, but he did not include the most significant.

When I assumed the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe in 1964 the Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (Efta) at the time, Sir Frank Piggotts, wrote to wish me well. I replied, incautiously, that he was fortunate to preside in an organisation which dealt with economics while I must do so in one which dealt with politics. "Have you not noticed," he inquired, "that an issue remains economic so long as everybody agrees, but that as soon as they disagree it becomes political?"

This tells us what we need to know about the consequences of a single European currency. The hardship inflicted by such a system in bread-and-butter terms must inevitably give rise to bitter political conflict, the seeds of which are already sown in mass unemployment in continental Europe.

It is ironic that the men who have gone too far too fast in trying to set up a federal Europe are by their own efforts preparing its destruction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER SMITHERS,
6921-Vico Morcote, Switzerland.
September 19

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Empty caskets' in the Welsh valleys

From the Reverend Kevin Watson

Sir, John Wesley spoke no Welsh; hence his preaching in the Principality was far less effective than that of his contemporary, Hywel Harris. Consequently, 18th-century Welsh enthusiasm focused on Harris's Calvinism. In changing Welsh society, Harris's theology eventually proved short-lived than Wesley's.

All forms of dissent, religious or otherwise, run the gauntlet of social and cultural change, whether change comes through language, family, class, economics or religion itself. All these factors have contributed to the decline of nonconformist Christian influence in Wales ("Chapels in the valley of tears", Simon Jenkins, September 7). Welsh nonconformist piety is not without issue in the wider world, but too many of its "caskets" lie empty and vulnerable.

If Simon Jenkins seeks additional candidates for attention, I would nominate the Swansea area. The three nights blitz in February 1941 and post-war rehousing broke up old neighbourhoods, with their myriad loyalties, and have left chapels and their burial grounds crumbling and often vandalised around the city centre. Six miles westward, chapels at Loughor and Bwlchymynydd were the midwives of the last Welsh evangelical revival 92 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN WATSON,
271 Pentregethin Road,
Gendros, Swansea,
September 17.

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Sir, Your readers should be aware that this commission is co-ordinating the creation of a basic record of all Nonconformist buildings in Wales and an intensive photographic or drawn survey of those considered to be of particular architectural, historic or religious significance.

This work is being taken forward in close co-operation with Capel the Chapels Heritage Society, the National Library of Wales, the Board of

Celtic Studies and Cadw (Welsh National Heritage). The resulting material will be located in various repositories, including the National Monuments Record for Wales here in Aberystwyth, and it is planned to access it through a common, computerised index.

As a result of these efforts, Nonconformist chapels should continue to exist in sufficient numbers to remain a characteristic part of the Welsh landscape for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WHITE, Secretary,
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales,
Pias Crug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed,
September 17.

From the Reverend John Lawson

Sir, The picture used to illustrate Simon Jenkins's article, showing John Wesley preaching at Gwennap Pit in Cornwall [see also letters, September 9 and 11] is well known among those interested in Methodist curiosities. However, it is so romanticised that it bears no relation to the actual place.

Gwennap Pit is a large circular depression in the ground, probably formed by the collapse of old mine workings. When, preaching outdoors, John Wesley first went there in 1762, it was not to find a craggy eminence, for there is no such thing in sight. It was to find a place where he would be sheltered from the wind.

Wesley preached there many times, and it became a hallowed place for Cornish Methodism. Later the people improved it as a place for open-air meetings by digging the sides of the depression into shallow terraces, easier to stand or sit upon.

Gwennap Pit is now valued and cared for by Cornish Methodism, used on occasion for large gatherings, and visited by members of Methodist historical societies from all over the world.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LAWSON,
57 Homecourt House,
Bartholomew Street West,
Exeter, Devon,
September 8.

Plutonium trade

From Mrs Madeline Haigh

Sir, Mr Llew Smith, MP (letter, September 11), is right to highlight the hazards of air shipment of plutonium. At last week's meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency moves to increase safety standards for air transport of mixed oxide fuel (MOX) were rejected as a result of resistance from countries with heavy commercial interests in the nuclear industry, such as the UK, France, Germany and Japan.

This means reprocessed nuclear fuel, a mixture of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide, will continue to be flown in containers which withstand impacts of no more than 30mph.

Law on 'stalking'

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, The urgent need for a specific criminal offence of "stalking", notwithstanding the problems of definition, has been underlined by the recent failure of a prosecution for affray and causing grievous bodily harm with intent (report, September 18).

Meanwhile, it is within the power of the civil courts to intervene by means of injunctive orders, disobedience of which could lead to imprisonment. Indeed, they have done so in the past.

Martin Bormann

From Mr Milton Shulman

Sir, In his review of *Op/B* by Christopher Creighton (September 14) about the author's involvement with Ian Fleming in bringing Martin Bormann, Hitler's private secretary, to this country at the end of the Second World War, Andrew Roberts writes that I "have been taken in by the book's absurd claims".

In a long telephone conversation with Mr Roberts before he wrote his review I told him that in the six years in which I have been involved with this book, a number of intelligence experts have been paid by me and others to investigate its claims: they have come up with numerous doubts about details, but Creighton has rebutted all these negative findings to my satisfaction.

I also told him I had met "Susan Kemp", one of the most important protagonists (see my earlier letter, August 22), and that I am convinced she is who the book says she is and, that being the case, that the operation must have taken place.

None of this is contained in Mr Roberts's review. He does acknowledge, as I explained in my earlier letter, that I and my colleagues have offered a reward of £20,000 to anyone who can, on factual evidence, prove *Op/B* did not take place. Curiously enough, he does not believe that anyone will ever win it.

Yours faithfully,
MILTON SHULMAN,
51g Eaton Square, SW1,
September 14.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be forwarded to 0171-782 5000.

Secrecy on future of Naval College

From the Chairman of the Greenwich Society

Sir, Unless and until the future of the Royal Naval College is settled (letters, September 6 and 9) Greenwich faces the dismal prospect of the millennium arriving with a gaping hole in its very centre.

Important questions need to be urgently addressed — among them, in particular, the ability of the University of Greenwich to cope with the financial burden of becoming "core tenant" of the site and its surrounding buildings. For so long as details of the university's business plans are kept private and the figures in the advisory group's report are not disclosed (report, September 3), this concern will persist.

If the Government feels inhibited by some scruple of commercial confidentiality from publishing these figures, the university itself must do so. In return, the university is entitled to expect the Government to meet their financial responsibilities, as indicated in the advisory group's report.

A similar lack of openness surrounds the arrangements for the appointment of trustees for the new trust which, as Lord Lewin pointed out in his letter of September 9, should be set up without further delay. Presumably they are to be appointed by the Government; and presumably also their names are intended to inspire public confidence. More detail about how ministers intend to go about the process is required.

The Greenwich Society joins others in calling on the Government to act with speed, openness and a proper regard for its financial responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,
URSULA BOWSER,
Chairman,
The Greenwich Society,
111 Maze Hill, Greenwich, SE10,
September 16.

Prince at Cambridge

From Bishop Hugh Montefiore

Sir, I am sorry that you should have printed that when the Prince of Wales was at Cambridge "ecclesiastical dissent poured into his receptive ear, not least from lectures he attended at nearby Great St Mary's... organised by... Hugh Montefiore" ("Prince has searched his soul for the truth of faith", September 10).

I demur. As vicar of the university church it was my policy to invite undergraduates to hear the best preachers that were available and to teach and preach a faith credible for the mid-20th century.

Of course the Church as an institution is always subject to criticism; but to teach ecclesiastical dissent, no.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MONTEFIORE,
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17,
September 12.

Church music

From Mr Paul Bailey

Sir, Mr John B. Harris's belief that the substitution of digital music will help to improve the quality of church music (letter, September 12; also letters, September 16) is, I fear, sadly misplaced.

Other than in our centres of moral excellence most members of congregations will continue to sing their favourite hymns at their own pace and key, regardless of that played by organ or digital musician.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BAILEY,
The Woley, Basingstoke Road,
Ramsdell, Tadley, Hampshire,
September 17.

From Mrs Linda Brooke

Sir, People do not go to church to listen to the organ, they go to church to worship the Lord God; whilst they await the beginning of corporate worship they may choose to listen to music or they may choose to talk to their friends, it is their choice.

I long for the day when church musicians stick to their job and stop thinking and acting like prima donnas on a concert platform. The church musician is responsible for providing a musical accompaniment to the sung parts of worship — no more.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA BROOKE,
82 Osborne Road,
Morecambe, Lancashire,
September 16.

From Mr Neil Wright

Sir, Church organs should not necessarily feel affronted at the congregation's eagerness to leave at the end of a service (Mr Alan Millard's letter, September 12).

I can remember the scramble for the exit at the end of the final showing of the day in cinemas. We were told by our elders as we stood to attention for the national anthem that the others were striving to avoid missing their last bus home; no disrespect was intended.

However, when we left, public houses near by seemed full of people trying to get a drink before closing time.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WRIGHT,
Bakers, 14 Adderley Street,
Uppingham, Rutland, Leicestershire,
September 15.

Majury's prayer book

From the Reverend S. J. Davies

Sir, Perhaps you may allow me, as the prisoner-of-war chaplain in Camp 2 in North Korea, 1951-53, mentioned in your fine and moving obituary to Major-General James Majury (September 13), to add a personal word.

When I was placed in solitary confinement by our Chinese captors (not Japanese as you state) on the baseless but predictable charge of being a trouble-maker and cunning priest using religious services as a cloak for seditious and subversive political propaganda, and undermining the camp authority, Captain Majury (as he was then) first assumed lay leadership of our communal worship until I was eventually returned "under surveillance" to the compound.

Later, in October 1952, the Chinese abruptly split Camp 2, taking half the prisoners, including Captain Majury, to a new compound. As I was left in the original compound he became full-time lay chaplain.

It was there, as a mark of deep and affectionate esteem, that his fellow prisoners created for him that exquisite book of prayers referred to in your obituary. It was made clandestinely from coarse Chinese cigarette-rolling paper with beautifully illuminated capitals and designs using a few crayons. The book was not used in the camp but presented to Captain Majury after the armistice and shortly before the prisoners' release.

Only after Chinese obstructive actions and arguments was the prayer book allowed to be brought out.

Yours obediently,
S. J. DAVIES,
The Devon and Exeter Institution,
7 Cathedral Close, Exeter, Devon,
September 14.

OBITUARIES

CANON G. B. BENTLEY

Canon G. B. Bentley, moral theologian and Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor, 1957-82, died on September 12 aged 87. He was born on July 16, 1909.

In any community where more than two or three clerics are gathered together there is liable to be at least one difficult character. The Royal Peculiar of St George's Chapel, Windsor, has seldom proved an exception to that rule.

Many years ago Dean Albert Baillie wrote of his problems with Canon John Dalton: "The Dean had to suffer most of Dalton's contempt because the Dean was the primary influence which stood in the way of his authority... It was an absolute irritation to him even to think that there were other people who had an equal right with him to a voice in the Chapter." The four successive Deans of Windsor who served with Canon Bentley may well have felt some sense of rapport with Baillie's words.

Unlike Dalton, Bentley was not an aggressive or unkind man. Indeed, he was of distinctly benign, if somewhat academic, appearance. Yet he was never inclined to small talk — so much so that those who lived in and around Windsor Castle found him resistant to proffering so much as a passing "Good morning". Bentley seldom spoke unless orating, delivering a sermon, or arguing his point with unexpected good humour in private conversation. He was a man of contrasts, stern and unbending on administrative issues, yet surprisingly outspoken on certain moral ones.

He helped to produce the report for the 1958 Lambeth Conference entitled *The Family in Contemporary Society*, and in 1964 he was one of 13 members of Archbishop Michael Ramsey's Group on Reform of Divorce Law. Bentley was the victim of tabloid interest when he published his book *God and Venus*, for the Mothers' Union. In it he voiced the opinion that the Church should not try to remonstrate with teenagers engaged in premarital sex.

He wrote: "It is probably healthier to think of sex as fun than to treat it as sacred." Departing from his high classical stance, he continued: "If they think we are saying that sleeping alone is intrinsically preferable to a piece of crumpet or that virginity is in itself superior to the process of losing it, they will merely conclude that our heads need re-examining."

The Archbishop of Canterbury's report, *Putting Asunder* (1966), owed much to his contribution. The report influenced the Government to adopt the idea of irrevocable breakdown of marriage as the main reason for divorce in place of the previous concept of matrimonial offence. This was



achieved in close discussion with lawyers, Bentley steering a delicate balance between practicality and the need to stress marriage as a lifelong commitment.

Geoffrey Bryan Bentley was the son of Dr Henry Bentley of Bridgend, Glamorgan. He won an open scholarship to Uppingham, was a school praepostor and progressed by a further scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. There he gained a first in both the Classical and Theological Tripos, winning the Carus Greek Testament prize. He trained for the ministry at Cuddesdon, being ordained in 1933.

He started out in the Portsmouth diocese, serving as assistant curate at St Cuthbert's, Copnor, from 1933 to 1935. He then became a priest vicar (or minor canon) at Lincoln for 14 years, combining his cathedral duties with being a lecturer at the Bishop's Hostel theological college. He was a Proctor in Convocation from 1945 to 1955 and

chaplain of Lincoln County Hospital from 1938 to 1952. Subsequently, from 1952 to 1957, he served as rector of the remote Devonshire parish of Milton, Abbot with Dunterton.

In 1957 he was appointed a Canon of Windsor under Dean Hamilton ("the lovely Eric," as he was known in his prewar days at St Paul's, Knightsbridge). Bentley served as precentor from 1958 to 1969, again from 1970 to 1973 and for the last time in 1977. In various interregna between Deans it fell to him to be president of what is technically still known as the College of St George, and he was steward in 1969 and again from 1975 to 1976.

During the years when Robin Woods was Dean, and a particularly energetic one, Canon Bentley found himself fighting something of a rear-guard action against a man he publicly described as "a turbulent priest". He relied heavily on his reading of the statutes of the College of St George to

resist innovative ideas. He was far from keen on the creation of St George's House, although on the day of its opening by the Queen, in October 1966, he delivered a particularly positive introductory address, which was received in the college as a welcome volte face.

During his years at Windsor he was often a distant figure, dwelling more on important theological issues than on the routine affairs of the Chapter. He was overshadowed by the more outgoing Deans, Robin Woods, Laurence Fleming and Michael Mann, whose approach to religion appealed to the Duke of Edinburgh in a way that Bentley's did not.

His considerable letter-writing to *The Times* on theological matters tended to be of a high intellectual level. As well as objecting to clergy being Freemasons, he concerned himself as early as 1968 with then purely academic questions such as that of women taking Holy Orders.

During his years at St George's, it fell to him to receive two Princesses at Garter ceremonies and he came to feel this to be a bad omen, since George V's sister, the Princess Royal, and Princess Marina of Kent both died soon afterwards. He was no great supporter of the Windsor Festival and objected to the spectacular fireworks display on the opening night in September 1969 when a live firework landed in his garden at 8 The Cloisters. The experiment was not repeated.

However, in contrast to these austere reactions, he took a great interest in a polo neck shirt sported by one of his friends, the then organist, Dr Sidney Campbell, in 1968. Thereafter he eschewed the traditional dog-collar in favour of a rather more comfortable white silk polo neck which he customarily wore under his cassock.

After his retirement he received rather short shrift from the Chapter. On retirement he succeeded in being appointed the only ever honorary Canon of St George's by the Queen, and he remained ensconced in a smaller house — No 5 — in the Cloisters. However, he was forever complaining that keys once in his possession were removed. In the years of his retirement he was a familiar figure at the Sung Eucharist every Sunday.

Canon Bentley's other appointments were as Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter from 1952 to 1974, and Commissary to the Bishop of South West Tanganyika from 1952 to 1961. He was William Jones Gould Lecturer in 1965, and Scott Holland Lecturer in 1966. He published a number of theological works. He married in 1938, Nina, daughter of George Williams, and they had two sons and two daughters. His family survives him.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS WAHL

Nicholas Wahl, American political scientist, died of cancer in London on September 13 aged 68. He was born in New York on June 7, 1928.



RECOGNISED even in France itself as one of the keenest observers of French political life, Nicholas Wahl was a specialist on French political parties and institutions, especially those of the Fifth Republic, and on the political career of General Charles de Gaulle.

Starting in the early 1950s, while a doctoral student at Harvard University, Wahl began a series of interviews with the General which continued over many years. When de Gaulle returned to power in 1958, Nick Wahl became an unofficial adviser to the Government and particularly to Michel Debré, soon to become Prime Minister, who was assigned to draft the new constitution. Based on unparalleled access and inside knowledge, Wahl's first book, *The Fifth Republic: France's New Political System*, published in 1959 and reprinted in 1979, became an important reference for students of French politics.

In 1978, Wahl came to New York University from Princeton University, where he had taught for 14 years, to head the newly created Institute of French Studies. During his 18 years as director, he developed the institute into a leading centre for the study of France through the disciplines of history and the social sciences. It was the first and remains the only centre in the United States exclusively devoted to the interdisciplinary graduate study of contemporary France.

Because he enjoyed the friendship and respect of an extraordinary variety of scholars, intellectuals and political figures in France, he succeeded in making the Institute of French Studies into a unique centre in the United States of French-American intellectual exchange. It became the obligatory stopping-off place for visiting French figures from public, academic, journalistic, and business spheres. Among those who addressed audiences at the Institute were Debré, François Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Raymond Barre and Michel Rocard.

The Institute of French Studies maintains close links with both the Institut d'Etudes Politiques and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, through an active exchange of faculty and students. Wahl himself was a frequent visiting professor at both French institutions.

He also served as visiting professor at Nuffield College, Oxford, Columbia University, the University of Paris X-Nanterre, and the University of Saigon. At New York University he was Professor of French Civilisation and of History, and held the Milton Petrie Chair of European Studies. In addition, he helped to found the university's Centre of European Studies.

He worked tirelessly to promote French-American understanding outside the university. He was a founder and the first president of the French-American Foundation in New York and served on its board of directors until his death. He was a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and was skilful in bringing together scholars and government officials to discuss European affairs. A frequent consultant to foundations, corporations and several French ministries, he was also an active member of the Institut Charles de Gaulle and a

corresponding member of the Académie des Sciences morales et politiques of the Institut de France.

In recognition of his work, the French Government bestowed numerous decorations on him: he was named Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, Commander of the National Order of Merit, Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, and Officer of the Palmes Académiques. His other awards include fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, Harvard University, the Fulbright Commission, and US government awards.

Though his closest French contacts were with the Gaullists, in American domestic politics Nick Wahl was a Democrat, and once ran unsuccessfully in the New York Democratic Congressional primaries. He served the Carter Administration as a consultant to the State Department and the National Security Council.

Nicholas Wahl, whose first marriage ended in divorce, enjoyed a second marriage which brought him great happiness. He is survived by his second wife, the British-born painter, Charlotte Johnson, and three stepsons and one stepdaughter.

TOMMY IVES

Tommy Ives, former Labour Party agent, died on September 12 aged 73. He was born on May 25, 1923.

TOMMY IVES was one of the most colourful behind-the-scenes fixers in the postwar Labour Party. He was at one time regarded as a possible general secretary but, as it was, he had to find the fulfilment of his ambitions in forwarding the political interests of the Silkin family.

He played a material part in helping two sons of Lord (Lewis) Silkin become Labour MPs for constituencies in south London. From the party's point of view this was a worthwhile investment: the older brother, Sam, became Attorney-General and the younger one, John, Chief Whip and Minister of Agriculture.

Yet Ives's own career had had a stormy start. While still a young man he was one of the central characters in what became known as the Popkiss Affair. This was the name given to a bitter feud that developed in the late 1950s between the ruling Labour group on the Nottingham City Council and the City's Chief Constable, Captain Athelstan Popkiss. When the dust settled, both Popkiss and Ives were more or less discreetly removed from the scene.

Ives was a notable fixer in Labour affairs, reputedly always able to arrange a safe seat for a candidate of his liking. He was well-versed in the task of organising, if not manipulating, the cumbersome system of nominations by local ward parties and trade union branches needed to get a candidate on to the shortlist.

He had no parliamentary ambitions himself, serving as a Labour councillor not only in Nottingham but also in the Royal Borough of Kensington. He was Labour agent in a famous election in North Kensington in 1959 — the same year as the municipal imbroglio in the East Midlands reached its climax — when Sir Oswald Mosley stood for the last time as a parliamentary candidate.

Tommy Ives also became an important figure in the housing association movement, for many years in close association with the Silkin family. It was Lord Silkin and Tommy Ives who between them saved from the speculators Vincent House, Nottingham Hill, a residential hostel-cum-club for professional people from the provinces and abroad who found themselves required to stay for substantial periods in

London. In the early 1960s Ives negotiated a £200,000 mortgage at a fixed rate of 7.5 per cent for 25 years from the London County Council to turn Vincent House into a housing association.

Thomas William Ives was born in Liverpool, the eldest of a family of four. Both his parents died young, and he and his siblings were brought up by an aunt. He left elementary school at 14 and worked in various factory jobs until 1943 when he was conscripted as a Bevin Boy to work in the mines. In 1945, following a mining accident, he was directed by the Minister of Labour to London as a building labourer on bombed sites.

Ives was the full-time Labour Party agent in Nottingham at a time when political parties could still afford such a luxury, and he also served as secretary to the Labour group

on the council. Captain Popkiss was a South African, said to keep a rhino whip, or sambok, on the wall of his office. Bad blood developed between himself and the local Labour leaders when they began to suspect that his constables were pointedly following councillors on occasions when official hospitality had been dispensed at city hall functions.

Popkiss set in train an investigation into rumours that Labour councillors were overcharging on claims for loss of earnings and that work had been done on the home of an alderman by the City Engineer's department. And he called in Scotland Yard when a delegation of three councillors, including himself, returned from a visit to East Germany. Perhaps vulnerably, they were clutching cameras they had been given as presents after inspecting the Zeiss works with a view to buying a planetarium for Nottingham.

No charges were ever brought, and the city's watch committee took the unprecedented step of suspending the chief constable *sine die*. After five weeks, the Home Secretary, R. A. Butler, felt constrained to step in, but he refused to withdraw the City's police grant or order the reinstatement of the Chief Constable. It was merely emphasising to a delegation of councillors that "time was a factor". Defending the action

however, is the Nottingham Playhouse which he and Sir Hugh Willatt, later secretary of the Arts Council, first conceived, and for which Ives secured funding from the rates.

That Ives's name could still be put in contention, despite the Popkiss Affair, for the general secretaryship of the Labour Party when Morgan Phillips retired from the post in 1961, was almost entirely

thanks to his shrewd management of the general election contest for the Kensington North seat in 1959. Ives was agent for the sitting MP, George Rogers, who faced a strong Conservative challenge. But the contest was distorted by the Union Movement candidacy of Mosley, who, in one of the first areas to experience the influx of immigrants from the Caribbean, confidently expected that he would win. In the event, he managed to secure a mere deposit-losing 8.1 per cent of the vote. Rogers scraped home with a majority of 877.

Ives overcame the objections of local councillors in the heyday of a virtual municipal monopoly of public housing to found housing associations at Caerphilly in South Wales, at Tilbury, and in London, where his Central and Provincial Housing Trust established itself as one of the leaders of the housing association movement.

A small, energetic and highly convivial man, Tommy Ives never lost his Liverpudlian accent, nor his instinctive touch for politics, and kept an enormous network of friends in good repair.

He was twice married, with two daughters by his first marriage to Patricia Smith, and one by his second to Sylvia Bailey. To his delight his daughter Sara recently succeeded him as secretary to the Vincent House Association.



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CHANNEL BRIDGE PROJECT

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, Sept. 19
M. Jules Moch, whose enthusiasm for the channel bridge project is infectious, stated tonight that he will soon be in London to open discussions with interested members of the British Government and the directors of a British group which had recently been formed, he said, to support the scheme. He named the firm of Dorman Long as one of the principal British advocates of a channel bridge, and said that a powerful group in Parliament was now leaning towards the idea.

In elaborating the plans of his study group, M. Moch, surrounded by charts and models, described the projected bridge as the backbone not only of the old Entente Cordiale but also of a future economic community of unequalled power — what soon would be "the Europe of the Seven".

Speaking to newspaper correspondents of his conversion to the scheme he recalled that during his term as Minister of Public Works three bridges a day were being reconstructed in France after the demolitions of the last war; as the principal French delegate at disarmament discussions of recent years he felt that there could be few creative works of peace than

ON THIS DAY

September 20, 1961

That M Moch, French maritime interests and Dorman Long advocated a Channel bridge must have rendered it a feasible project. A layman might find it difficult to conjure up the prospect of Channel traffic navigating through 164 piles.

a bridge over the Channel. M. Moch noted that the exchange of persons between France and Britain was far less in proportion than the exchanges with Belgium and other neighbouring countries: a direct link between the two countries was now more necessary than ever. He added little to details of the scheme already given but marshalled many of his arguments against the Channel tunnel project which he called "le tunnel de Grandpapa".

As he saw it, there were three alternatives: a tunnel, a tube resting on the sea bed, or a bridge, and each had three possibilities — road, railway or both. Six of these combinations

could be eliminated at once because of the great difficulties of ventilation (calling for equipment of 80,000 horse-power), claustrophobia, and risks of accidents and panic.

The tunnel project made no provision for heavy freight lorries; and would be a railway monopoly — possibly for this reason rail interests in France were backing the scheme, he said. He felt a multi-purpose bridge was the only modern solution. French maritime interests which had been consulted largely agreed that the 164 piles on which the contemplated bridge would rest could serve usefully to regulate shipping in the Channel, now plying at a rate of 1,000 vessels a day.

In fog, traffic would move more readily on the well-lighted bridge than on routes of access; if it could not move on the latter the bridge admittedly would be out of action but such conditions would apply equally to a tunnel.

Under the present scheme the estimated N.F.3,000m. (£210m.) needed for the bridge would be privately raised on the international money market and investors could count on dividends of from 4 per cent to 8 per cent. In the early years of its operation. He envisaged a labour force of 4,000 working at either end

NEWS

Runaway bishop has son of 15

The Roman Catholic Church faced renewed controversy with the revelation that its runaway bishop, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, has a 15-year-old son.

The boy, Kevin, was born after Bishop Wright had an affair with Joanne Whibley, now living in Polegate, East Sussex. The Bishop, then a priest, met Miss Whibley when he was instructing her in the Roman Catholic faith after she became engaged to a Catholic. Page 1

Maxwell trial halted by judge

The Government will face renewed pressure to review trial by jury in complex fraud cases after a judge halted the second Maxwell trial. Kevin Maxwell walked free after Mr Justice Buckley blocked a second trial on charges relating to the collapse of his father's media empire. Pages 1, 2, 3

Tories at war

The Tory party is again caught up in a ferocious war over Europe after its leading Euro-sceptics turned on the grandees who warned John Major that he must keep open the option of joining a single currency. Pages 1, 10

More crime

Crime in England and Wales has risen by about 2 per cent, seriously damaging the Government's claim to be turning the tide on law and order. Page 2

Tuition fees threat

Six universities are poised to introduce tuition fees next autumn if the Government does not reverse cuts in higher education in November's Budget, said vice-chancellors. Page 3

Prince's warning

The Prince of Wales said that intensive agriculture could be undermining health. The hidden costs would burden future generations and deficiencies in intensively produced food might rob people of intelligence. Page 5

Lucan 'is dead'

A self-confessed thief who claims to be a former friend of Lord Lucan told a jury that the missing peer was dead. Page 5

Artistic divide

The precise year in which modern art began has been pinpointed by the Tate and National galleries: 1900 is the divide. Page 6

Lipstick on the chain-gang

For her first day on America's first female chain-gang, Princess Richardson bought a tube of deep red lipstick at the prison and wrote a martial-sounding cadence for her fellow inmates. Shackled to each other with hardened steel, 15 women from Estrella jail in Phoenix, Arizona, shuffled off a bus onto the scorching streets to pick up litter. Page 15

Pill crisis

Women in their late twenties are abandoning the contraceptive pill apparently because of fears about side-effects. Page 7

'Animals' jailed

Three black teenagers left a young man in a coma after stamping on his head while chanting "white bastard". A judge jailed them for a total of almost 35 years and told them that they had behaved "like a pack of wild animals". Page 11

South Korean anger

South Korea denounced a bungled infiltration attempt as its troops shot dead seven North Koreans on the second day of a manhunt. Page 12

Calamity Dole

Bob Dole sought solace in Las Vegas after a calamitous foray into California to protest against the moral laxity of Hollywood and President Clinton. Page 13

Pope in France

The Pope arrived in France for a four-day visit that will test his failing health and the faith of a country which disapproves of his stance on contraception, abortion and homosexuality. Page 14

Kurdish plea

The Kurdish leader who asked President Saddam Hussein for help to defeat a rival Kurdish is now seeking protection from the Gulf War allies. Page 15



European Solheim Cup women golfers watch the Red Arrows fly over Chepstow before their tournament with the US. Page 44

BUSINESS

Pensions: The Office of Fair Trading has launched an inquiry into the £5 billion industry in an attempt to restore consumer confidence following the mis-selling scandals. Page 23

Bank chief: Lloyds TSB is expected to announce the appointment of Peter Ellwood as new chief executive with Sir Brian Pitman becoming chairman. Page 23

Copper losses: Sumitomo has revealed that losses on rogue copper deals total £1.7 billion, nearly 50 per cent higher than previously expected. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 18.6 to 3974.3. The pound was 0.3 down at 85.9 after falling from \$1.5608 to \$1.5510 and from DM2.3545 to DM2.3481. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Leicestershire dismissed Middlesex for 190 to claim maximum bowling points and seal a march over their rivals for the county championship. Page 44

Football: Manchester City are still without a manager after Dave Bassett had a last-minute change of heart and decided to stay with Crystal Palace. Page 44

Golf: Home advantage may be sufficient to tip the Solheim Cup Europe's way against the United States at St Pierre, Chepstow, over the next three days. Page 44

Racing: Brave Montgomerie became the first Scottish-trained winner for 12 years at Ayr's Western meeting and raised hopes of a home victory in the Ladbrokes (Ayr) Gold Cup. Page 39

ARTS

Pop pigs: After a gruesome start to their career, the Lovepigs at last have a single out on Monday, an album recorded, and everything to play for. Page 32

Midsummer dream ticket: Orchestral beauty lifts the ENO's bedroom-farce staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — and at half the price of Covent Garden. Page 33

Drama queens: Balzac's tender story of misplaced love comes to the stage in Neil Bartlett's exotic fantasy version, *Sarrasine*. Page 33

Elgar orgy: How the conductor Richard Hickox is preparing for a long weekend of high drama at the Barbican in London with the three great oratorios of Edward Elgar. Page 34

FEATURES

Wading cynicist: The indomitable Ruby Wax attends a Versace show and shares her thoughts on supermodels, fashion photographers and Mickey Rourke. Page 16

New Labour, new patron: Bob Gavron is engagingly quirky, extremely wealthy and despite a soft spot for Mrs Thatcher, has donated £500,000 to the party led by Tony Blair, a man he "likes and trusts". Page 17

Loving a priest: Claudia Luro married Argentinean Roman Catholic bishop Jeronimo Podesta and has now told the story of the early days of their love. Page 17

EDUCATION

Second-class system: Should the traditional university degree classifications be modernised to reflect, more accurately, graduates' achievements and the lack of their? Page 35

Exam blues: Modular A levels are devaluing the education system, argues Susan Elkin. Page 36

THE PAPERS

The constant French fear with regard to a "German Europe" — in economic as well as political matters — is not completely unjustified. In the current negotiations, is France assured that the European economy will not be stifled by the German obsession with stability? — *Le Monde*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: America's latest sit-com stars Lea Thompson as a cartoonist more successful at work than play. *Caroline in the City* (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Lynne Truss enjoys Ian Hislop's C of E. Page 47

OPINION

Serious farce

The sorry saga of the last decade — from the Guinness convictions to the Maxwell acquittals — suggests that the criminal law has been brought into areas that would be dealt with better by either civil law or direct regulation, or, in some sectors, left alone. Page 19

Mission improbable

Patience, persistence, vigilance and a strong military preparedness are the only way of dealing with North Korea. Page 19

Wine and Roses

A vigorous campaign from the authorities to hymn the prophylactic virtues of Bordeaux and Bourville is the least we might expect. A Praline and a pichet a day should keep the doctor away. Page 19

COLUMNS

ROBERT SKIDELSKY

No one denies that private schools compete for the custom of parents. No one denies that standards in most independent schools are higher than in most state schools — without any "top-down" planning. So why can't we think of this unplanned, unmeritocratic system as the model for our national education — with all schools in the private sector and competing for custom on the basis of quality and price? Page 18

BERNARD LEVIN

The United States is perhaps the most inward-looking country in the world, and only one in a hundred American citizens has ever heard of Hong Kong, but when they do, their generosity will make up for their ignorance. Page 18

OBITUARIES

Canon G.B. Bentley, moral theologian; Professor Nicholas Wahl, political scientist; Tommy Ives, Labour Party agent. Page 21

LETTERS

Churchill's vision of Europe; chapel heritage; future of Naval College; plutonium trade; law on 'stalking'; Prince at Cambridge; church music. Page 19

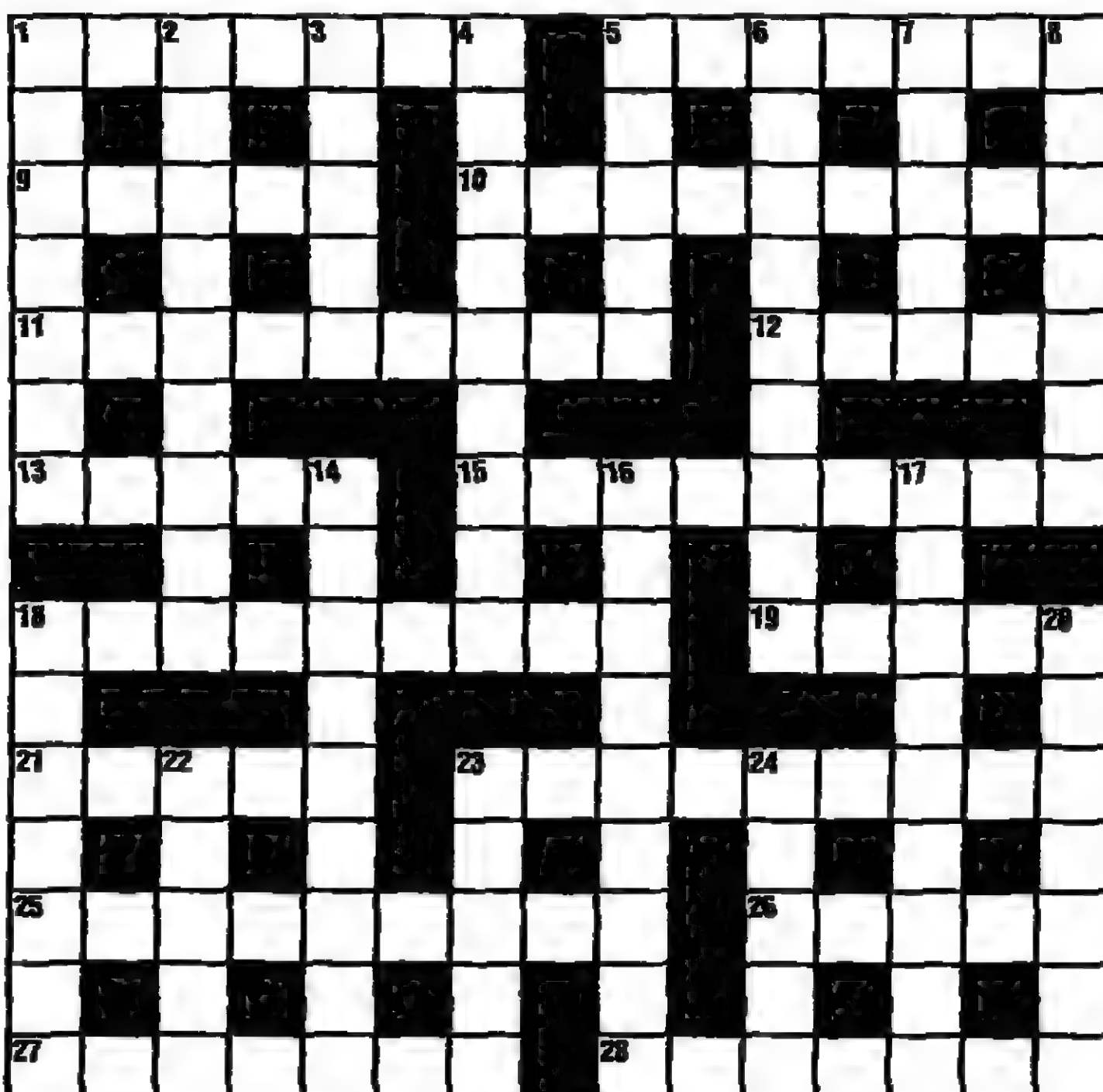


TOMORROW

HOMES
Why people who want relaxing weekends are buying their country cottages brand new

BOOKS
Peter Riddell on a slim volume of fat theories: *The Nigel Lawson Diet Book*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,278



ACROSS

- In this connection, predator catches somnolent animals (7).
- Medicine pulled us together, they say (7).
- Shoot, for instance, twisted and filthy material (5).
- Groom almost about to pass it back, that's clear (9).
- Watching Batman's first outside broadcast (9).
- Old hands are familiar with these notes about work (5).
- Fine leaders of men usually lead competent troops (5).
- The piano I played is African (9).
- Gas pressure is regulated by this base and lowly conglomerate (6,3).
- Northern British taxes (5).
- Almost extinct residue of honour, being introduced to sovereign (5).
- Nuns turn round (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,277

CONVERGENT WAIF
O S A O V I
DAMPED COURSE JEAN
E I A N I B R G
SNIP TIDAL WAVE
A A E L O G R
UNLOCKED SCREAM
C I T S K A
TITIAN PULLOVER
I R U L B E A K
OVERSLEEP TIME
N A E T O T K
EDDY CHEESECAKE
E L A N R G S
RUE'S CLEANSWEEP

DOWN

- Advertisement with appeal unknown in subsequent generations (9).
- Approach shot in golf (5).
- Estate needs me working for it (7).
- Socially acceptable state assistance restricted? That's awkward (7).
- Comfortable seating's essential in the continental coach (7).
- Shy — as we expect uncle to be (4,5).
- Lead the way at all times (5).
- Nothing about leg cut is ideal (9).
- Straight run (5).
- Infamous rejection of Brazilian city by American (9).
- Walk from a sort of car parking here (5).
- Tramples relatively new family member (7).
- What's produced by spectre he disturbed? (3,6).
- Our "ahoy" we designed as, a greeting (3,3,3).
- Retaining nothing in one's old language, in exile (9).
- Audibly summoned to run around gym (7).
- Liberal is standing, extremely pale (7).
- Close barrier across river, trapping salmon primarily (5).
- Attendants become unreasonable in the end (5).
- In Moscow I'd thought one could find liberality of mind (5).

Times Two Crossword page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

Lloyds TSB expected to name Ellwood as chief



Ellwood: job cuts ahead

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE board of Lloyds TSB Group is expected to announce today that Peter Ellwood will be the new chief executive of the bank. Sir Brian Pittman, the current chief executive, will become chairman.

Mr Ellwood became deputy group chief executive and chief executive of retail financial services on December 28 last year, when Lloyds and TSB merged to become Britain's second-largest bank, with 3,000 branches.

When the merger was announced last October, Mr Ellwood, who is 53, was seen as the most likely successor

to Sir Brian, who will be 65 in December. However, the delay in making the final decision had led City analysts to suggest that the succession might not be as smooth as first appeared a year ago. The other internal front runner was Alan Moore, 60, also a deputy group chief executive and treasurer, who has wider international banking experience than Mr Ellwood, having worked in the Middle East, and comes from a corporate and treasury background, rather than retail banking.

Sir Brian earned £627,362 last year, and, to attract an international banker from an investment bank,

Lloyds TSB would have had to pay £1 million a year.

Mr Ellwood began his career with Barclays Bank in 1961 and ran Barclaycard, its credit card operation, in the eighties, at the height of its profitability and before a large number of imitators entered the market. He moved to TSB in 1989 to become chief executive.

Last year TSB had been thought ready to buy a building society, but Mr Ellwood decided that those in the market to be bought were too expensive. However, he was aware that the conversion of the Halifax Building Society to a bank next year

and the takeover of National & Provincial by Abbey National would mean that TSB would no longer be in the top six banks.

The Lloyds/TSB merger propelled Lloyds up the banking league. Mr Ellwood will no doubt have noticed the career opportunity for himself.

In recent months, City insiders have suggested that Mr Ellwood's background lacked international experience, but, in a round of dinners with the 22 members of the board, he has impressed.

As chief executive of the larger group, he will have to oversee job cuts and branch closures. The bank has

already announced the closure of 150 branches.

Sir Brian is the longest-serving chief executive of the Big Four banks, having taken the reins in 1983. He began his career with Lloyds Bank in Cheltenham in 1952 and crowned it last year with the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, in August, and the announcement of the merger with TSB to form the second-largest bank after HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland.

Sir Robin Ibbotson is retiring as chairman. He is 70, and his continuation in office would have required special approval by shareholders.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3974.3	(+18.8)
Yield	3.92%	
FT-SE All share	1957.02	(+8.23)
Nickel	21322.85	(+188.10)
Dow Jones	5852.95	(-24.11)
S&P Composite	680.57	(-0.80)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(4 1/4%)
Long Bond	9 1/2%	(9 1/2%)
Yield	7.07%	(7.02%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long g/l	107 1/2	(107 1/2)
Future (Dec)	107 1/2	(107 1/2)

STERLING

New York	1.5518*	(1.5508)
London	1.5508	(1.5505)
DM	2.3480	(2.3537)
FF	7.9919	(8.0180)
SF	1.9286	(1.9381)
Yen	169.47	(170.20)
£ Index	85.9	(86.2)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5147*	(1.5085)
DM	5.1523*	(5.1410)
SF	1.2434*	(1.2450)
Yen	108.37*	(108.20)
£ Index	97.0	(96.8)

TOKYO CLOSING

Tokyo close	Yen 109.38	
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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	821.45	(821.75)
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GOLD

London close	\$382.85	(\$383.35)
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* denotes midday trading price

OFT starts personal pensions inquiry

By ADAM JONES

THE Office of Fair Trading has launched an inquiry into the £5 billion-a-year personal pensions industry in a bid to restore confidence after the mis-selling scandals.

The inquiry, which will report in the first half of next year, aims to draw a line under recent controversies, presenting a positive vision of how personal pensions can evolve in the next century. It will study all aspects of how pensions are bought, sold and regulated, targeting what the OFT refers to as "innate weaknesses" in the system. These include the failure to provide satisfactory arrangements for women and workers with "stop-start" careers, such as the self-employed.

The inquiry will be chaired by Geoffrey Horton, OFT's director of consumer affairs. He said: "People are having to become more responsible for the provision of their income in old age. There have been concerns in the recent past about aspects of the personal pensions market."

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "People are now more worried about living too long to provide a comfortable retirement, than they are about dying early. Our research will cover consumer experience and the structure and regulation of the industry to see what lessons can be learnt from the past."

An estimated 500,000 people were mis-sold pensions in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They were persuaded to leave efficient company schemes for personal pensions that would not provide a viable income in retirement.

A review of the scandal by the Personal Investment Authority has been ongoing for almost three years, attracting criticism for being slow to compensate investors. Total compensation could be as much as £4 billion.

Mr Horton admitted there were mis-selling issues still to be resolved but said the OFT involvement will not usurp the existing review. The OFT team will consult industry, consumer groups, academics and regulators, and invite input from the public. It is not yet clear whether the report and its recommendations will be aimed at the Government, business or consumer.

Bill Davey, project leader at the OFT, emphasised the importance of research and guidance. He said many people are extremely disorientated by the pension-buying process: "They either make the wrong purchase or, catastrophically, they are put off making any decision at all."

The market for personal pensions has grown enormously under the Conservatives' emphasis on personal responsibility for retirement planning. The Association of British Insurers said there were 18.7 million personal pension policies in force at the beginning of 1995 — the last period for which figures are available — bringing in £5.1 billion a year in premiums. This compares with 4.4 million policies in 1985.

An important element of the inquiry will be comparisons with practice in other countries, including Australia, Chile — where there is a thriving, flexible pension system — and The Netherlands.

Pennington, page 25



Pizza the action: Luke Johnson, chairman of Pizza Express, with David Page, chief executive, and Hugh Osmond, director. The year-end pre-tax profits came out at £10.2 million (£6.64 million). A 2p final dividend, due on November 4, makes a 2.7p total (2.2p)

Consumer demand boosts rate-rise call

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor's resistance to Bank of England demands for higher interest rates received another knock yesterday with more evidence of strong consumer demand for credit in August as well as a surge in M4 broad money supply above the Government's monitoring range.

Kenneth Clarke meets Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, on Monday to discuss interest rates in the knowledge that the Bank would like to see rates raised at least a quarter point to 6 per cent.

The Building Societies Association reported gross advances of mortgage money of £3.8 billion in August, down on £4.1 billion in July. Net advances rose to £1.35 billion from £1.23 billion in July.

Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said: "Allowing for the fact that the National & Provincial left the sector in

early August after its takeover, these latest lending figures represent further positive news for the housing market." He said that seasonally adjusted net advances were the strongest for four years, clear evidence that the housing market is returning to health.

Building societies also attracted a net inflow of £395 million from savers, up on £229 million in July.

Banks reported a similarly buoyant lending picture with a rise of £3.2 billion compared with July's increase of £2.7 billion. Within the total, consumer credit recorded another strong rise, although slightly down on July's rise, and mortgage lending remained buoyant.

Separate Bank of England figures showed M4 money supply jumping 0.9 per cent in August, taking its annual growth rate to 9.4 per cent.

Signet fails to agree jewellery firms deal

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIGNET yesterday called off negotiations with Apax Partners, the venture capital firm that was offering £280 million for its H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery businesses.

The two sides failed to agree terms for the transfer of property leases. Under the deal offered by Apax, which was funding a buyout by the management of the two jewellery chains, Signet would have had to compensate Apax for each of the 600 leases it did not deliver.

It is understood that some landlords were unhappy about leases being transferred to a venture capital company. There was also concern within Signet about retaining contingent liability. It has become a major issue since Sears found itself with 370 shoe shops returned to it after Facia, the company that had bought them, collapsed.

John Morton, a partner at Apax, said that Signet's terms meant Apax would not be guaranteed to receive what it had paid for.

Goldsmiths, which is run by Jurek Piasecki, was involved in talks with Apax and Signet at an earlier stage, and remains interested in buying Signet's UK jewellery companies. Last night Mr Piasecki said he would be willing to buy Ernest Jones outright, and H Samuel as well in partnership with a backer.

Signet, formerly Ratners, is likely to come under pressure from its preference shareholders, who are owed around £135 million in unpaid dividends. Signet may look again for purchasers of the businesses, although with Ernest Samuel in particular showing healthy sales figures, it could be running the chains for some months to come.

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Wm Morrison growth to create 3,200 jobs

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MORE THAN 3,200 full and part-time jobs are to be created in a £100 million expansion programme by Wm Morrison, the supermarket chain based at Bradford.

The company will open superstores at Sunderland, Northampton, Shef-

Northwich, Cheshire. It announced the move yesterday along with pre-tax profits for the half year of £55.2 million, 8 per cent up on last year.

Sales figures were disappointing. Like-for-like sales in the half year were up 3.5 per cent excluding petrol. Including petrol, they were up 1.9 per cent. In the first seven weeks of the current half the increase slowed to just

increased from 0.275p per share to 0.325p, payable on November 4. In the half year to August 4 the company's turnover exceeded £1 billion for the first time, to reach £1,092.8 billion, an increase of 9.3 per cent.

The new jobs will boost Wm Morrison's 27,000-strong workforce in its current 81 stores by 12 per cent. About 450 jobs will be created at each new

at Wm Morrison's distribution centre in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, will grow by 100 with the construction of a new frozen food depot.

Refurbishments, creating about 75 jobs each, will take place at Carlisle and Wellington in Cumbria, Beverley in North Yorkshire, Bishop Auckland in Durham, Newark in Nottinghamshire, Stamford in Lincolnshire

□ OFT's wide-ranging look at pensions □ Raising cash for cables and the PFI □ Brent Walker's managed decline

Dying early is the easy option

□ THERE is a wonderfully arresting phrase in John Bridgeman's preamble to the launch of an inquiry into pensions mis-selling. "People are now more worried about living too long to provide a comfortable retirement," he says, "than they are about dying early."

What an extraordinary comment on human progress. For nearly all of the lifetime of the human race, for all those millions of years, life has been nasty, brutish and short, and people have feared an early death. Now we worry about our pensions.

What is striking about the Office of Fair Trade's actions is how they diverge from its earlier approach. OFT probes have either been about relatively small markets, as with the disastrously botched inquiry into compact disc prices, individual market-places like the plethora of investigations into regional bus companies, or into particular deals and whether they should go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Now it is about Life, Pensions and Everything. Perhaps this is a reflection of the consumer-oriented instincts of Mr Bridgeman himself. But it makes one wonder just what is supposed eventually to emerge. How the OFT will arrive there is clear. Anyone who feels they have been mistreated, or feels they have any-

thing at all to say, is invited to contribute, which should ensure plenty of work for the Post Office. Examples of how they cope around the world will be researched, including this year's exemplar, Chile.

What can we expect the OFT to come up with, aside from a few more months of uncertainty for the pensions firms and their customers? The best result would be a firm set of conclusions about how individuals should best organise their financial affairs to ensure a comfortable retirement, because such advice has been singularly lacking so far.

The Government's attempts in the late 1980s to persuade people to abandon occupational schemes in favour of personal responsibility merely threw the problem to the insurance industry, with the disastrous results that we have seen. Thereafter, the Personal Investment Authority's insistence on revealing hitherto hidden costs have had the effect of reducing the diversity of products on offer, by forcing the industry to focus on the cheapest options.

It will do little for the "feel-

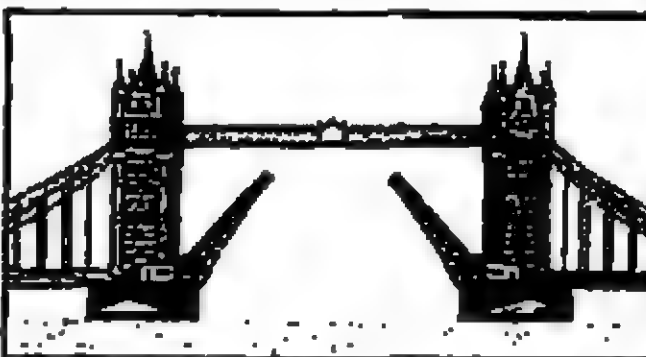
good" factor to tell 40-year-olds, for example, that they should be stashing away 20 per cent of their income for their old age, which explains why the Government has not been dishing out the unpalatable truth. It had better, therefore, come from a respected body like the OFT.

One helpful spin-off of a proper debate might even be to speed up the PIA, whose dilatory approach to the victims of the original mis-selling since their existence first became clear almost two years ago has become a national scandal. Perhaps that was Mr Bridgeman's aim in the first place.

BICC gives new life to the rights issue

□ LIKE the two companies that merged after the war to create BICC—British Insulated Cables and Callender's Cable & Construction Co—yesterday's £170 million rights issue has a wonderfully old-fashioned ring to it. This, ostensibly, is a company asking investors to put up fresh cash that it can take

PENNINGTON



away to invest for them in areas that the management thinks offer above-average returns.

Truly, it is a while—save for the odd housebuilder raising cash to build up its land bank—since we saw one of these. Companies are so stuffed with cash that they can generally think of nothing else to do but hand it back to shareholders—take a bow here, Reuters. Otherwise, in a diminishing number of cases admittedly, they are frantically raising fresh funds to stave off collapse or pay for earlier management misdeeds, as Wickes will shortly announce.

Rights issues, as a rule, have fallen from fashion. This is perhaps surprising, with the FTSE 100 possibly days off the

4,000 level. Most of the sharp market falls in recent years were preceded by frantic cash-raising to take advantage of share ratings that no one expected to see again in a while. The markets are so nervous today that underwriting such share issues, and leaving even a few days' exposure to any market collapse, can prove difficult.

Analysts were generally positive on BICC's move, even if there is an element of righting of past misdeeds about it. Alan Jones, the chief executive, arrived early last year and set about him with an axe in several rounds of restructuring. He announced that the group had turned the corner this summer, but those write-offs left gearing at 80 per cent. The rights issue will address this, while providing Mr Jones with useful ammunition to go forward.

The group has earmarked some of the cash for future Private Finance Initiatives, which suggests little urgency to spend it, even if BICC does claim to be one of the few beneficiaries of that programme. The rest is going into cables, with a concentration on the Asia-Pacific region.

Significantly, none goes towards the battered construction side. This will have to sit on hold until those markets improve.

Twilight of a fallen star

□ SCIENTISTS tell us that most stars grow old along fixed lines of evolution, an early, healthy phase being followed by a swift and unwise expansion and then a slow, grey drift towards gradual extinction. Some companies too, and Brent Walker, once one of the brightest stars in the firmament, is now at the white dwarf stage, heading towards the final dying of the light.

Most of those pearls that George Walker collected have gone. The Trocadero is the biggest quote on the Alternative Investment Market; Brighton Marina, which George used to dash enthusiastically around trailing packs of perspiring analysts at his heels, was sold this summer for just £9 million. All that will shortly be left is the Pubmaster chain and the William Hill betting shops.

Both are for sale as the banks look to crystallise losses on £1.5 billion of debt. Buyers such as Bass and Stanley Leisure have lost interest in William Hill, worth up to £500 million, and a deal will have to wait for next year when the full damage from the National Lottery is clear. A trade sale of the pubs has been abandoned, and venture capital groups are being canvassed in the region of £160 million, with the option of holding off for a market flotation in 1997 if their offers are insufficient.

Against this drab background financial reports like yesterday's, festooned with accountants' qualifications and bankers' cautions, are an irrelevance. The shares, at a few pence, are worthless, even if once in a while they get up, zombie-like, and stagger around.

Star's end

□ BOUSTEAD, on any chart of stellar evolution, has progressed to the brown dwarf stage, and the Stock Exchange is about to turn out the light forever. Once a mish-mash of investments, it is now a cash shell, and such are not allowed to trade. The board must make an acquisition within six months, or the listing goes. Such are the rules, even if it is not entirely clear whose interests they are designed to serve.

BICC seeks £170m for investment

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A TURNING point was yesterday signalled by BICC, the cables and construction company that has been undergoing substantial restructuring, with the launch of a £170 million rights issue (See Pennington this page).

BICC plans to pump £200 million into a variety of projects. The bulk will go into cables and data communications with substantial chunks going towards developing businesses in Asia-Pacific and Private Finance Initiatives in the UK.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said a sense of urgency and momentum fuelled the company's drive to expand after a period in which it had streamlined operations and closed factories. He said: "We have tried to make the business more market-led and these opportunities are very much driven by the market." A substantial part of the investments will focus on the fast-moving fibre optics market.

The two-for-11 rights issue will be priced at 270p a share.

Yesterday the price slipped back to 315p.

Last month BICC reported a £2 million interim pre-tax loss after absorbing £65 million in charges to pay for rationalisations and asset write-downs. But Mr Jones, who was recruited from GKN's Westland helicopter division last year to restore BICC to health, said the first-half results marked the low point for the company after which the benefits of restructuring would start to become apparent.

BICC will remain committed to construction through its Balfour Beatty business, although Mr Jones said that the turnaround for Balfour was some way down the road. He said productivity increases and more flexible forms of working were being implemented to combat the poor state of the market in UK construction.

Investment plans announced yesterday spring from a general review of strategy that started when Mr Jones arrived at the company.

Pubmaster attracts five bids

BRENT WALKER, the gambling and pub retail company, said yesterday it was considering five bids from venture capital groups for its Pubmaster business and hopes to make a sale shortly (Alasdair Murray writes).

The five groups interested in Pubmaster, which owns 1,700 mainly tenanted pubs, include Apax and CVC. Bids are expected to be in the region of £130 million compared with a book value of £140 million. Pubmaster increased profits by 11 per cent to £8.9 million.

But Brent Walker, which is still struggling with debts of nearly £1.5 billion, said plans to sell off its William Hill betting shops were on hold.

The company incurred half-year losses of £51.6 million, compared with £51.4 million last year. Interest charges totalled £85 million while overall turnover slipped slightly to £853 million. Operating profits increased 38 per cent to £37.7 million as betting operations improved profitability. There is no dividend.

GGT must pay £5m to finish deal

GGT GROUP, the advertising agency, will have to pay more than £5 million in fees to City firms to complete its £105 million purchase of BDDP, its French rival, which is more than twice its size (Jason Nisse writes).

The deal ends months of speculation about the future of BDDP, which was bought by its management team and a consortium of banks for just £40 million two years ago. GGT's purchase will take until January to complete. According to Nick McCarthy of HSBC James Capel, GGT's stockbrokers, the due diligence and underwriting costs are likely to top £5 million.

It is expected that a one-for-one share issue to raise £55 million will be launched along with £35 million of GGT shares going to the French management and a £20 million loan. GGT's shares were suspended at 223p yesterday and will remain so until the deal goes through.

Tempus, page 26

Irish Life outstrips market expectations

STRONG investment earnings and good growth in new business allowed Irish Life, the largest assurance group in the Irish Republic, to surprise the stock market with better than expected interim results (Eileen McCabe writes).

Embedded value earnings, the company's key profit indicator measuring the future value of policies sold during the year, the value of existing business, and increases in shareholders' investment, jumped 20 per cent to Ir£48

the first six months of 1995, will be paid on November 22. The company said investment earnings rose from Ir£7 million to Ir£12 million, largely because of an exceptional gain from its property portfolio. Product earnings rose 9 per cent to Ir£36 million with new business contributing almost Ir£5 million, but premium income fell more than 7 per cent to Ir£382 million. Total group sales fell 11 per cent to Ir£204 million. In Ireland total sales rose 7 per cent to Ir£107.8 million.

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYInopportune
calls for Green

SIR IAIN VALLANCE, chairman of BT, received a complaint yesterday from a very angry Hughie Green. The cult host of *Opportunity Knocks* and *Double Your Money* is absolutely raging after his ex-directory telephone number fell into rogue hands. Anyone who called City Deal Services freephone number last Sunday, requesting details of the forthcoming Thistle Hotels share offer, would not have heard the usual recorded message. Instead, they were told: "You have won £100 worth of shares in Thistle Hotels. To claim your prize contact Hughie Green on 0171-xxxxxxx. Your share certificate will be sent to you shortly." Green was kept awake until three in the morning dealing with "abusive" callers. "My entire life has been devoted to giving away money, but I don't want my name being used to push shares," says Green.

Diamond blues

DAVID FARDON, a manager at Argyle Diamonds, was taking extra care at yesterday's viewing of the 47-carat pink diamond collection at The Lanesborough hotel. It was only two years ago that Fardon was showing off a rare pink diamond priced at \$500,000, when it dropped onto his belly and bounced into the unknown. Eventually, Fardon's zealous secretary found it in the turn-up of his trousers.



Green: kept awake

Sheepish

CHEZ GERARD, venue of the Maxwell celebratory shindig yesterday, is responsible for sending out some rather disturbing invitations. The restaurant chain has sent out 250 Damien Hirst-style plastic sheep pickled in urine sample bottles, along with an invitation to the tenth gathering of The Carnivores' Club at Butcher's Hall in the City. Could the idea have come from Clare Whitley, Chez Gerard's finance director, whose husband just happens to be David Kershaw, a director at M&C Saatchi?

Trust for Labour

A FLIER falls on my desk from TU Fund Managers with an opportunity to upstage Matthew Harding. Tony Christopher, chairman and another of Tony Blair's co-funders, promises to donate \$50 to the Labour Party when I send for more details on the TU British Trust. For every £1,000 invested or savings plan opened, TU Fund Managers, which boasts Paul Blagborough, finance director at the Labour Party, as one of its directors, will give an extra donation of £10. As Christopher says: "An investment with us is thus also an investment in the well-being of others less fortunate."

AN ATTRACTIVE advertisement stands out in this month's edition of *What Investment* magazine. It promises: "Peps with proven performance." It goes on: "Morgan Grenfell has a range of top-performing Peps to suit your individual needs..."

Beware politicians bearing
beguiling tax-cutting gifts

New research
suggests lower
taxes are not
feasible, says
Janet Bush

Paddy Ashdown, whose Liberal Democrats convene in Brighton for their annual conference next week, recently accused the Conservatives and Labour of playing games on tax and treating people with contempt in the process. As the two main parties horse-trade tax-cutting promises, Mr Ashdown has offered the British public two tax increases. There is the long-standing Liberal Democrat promise to raise the basic rate of income tax by 1p to pay for increased spending on education, and a more recent pledge to impose a new 50p in the pound top tax rate for anyone earning £100,000 or more a year. This, he has promised, would pay to take 750,000 low-paid out of the tax net.

It is, of course, relatively painless to talk of higher taxes when your party has no hope of winning an election. But it is refreshing to hear a little bit of honesty on the subject from a political leader. Mr Ashdown's contention that the two main parties are playing fast and loose with public expectations on tax is given ample support from new research by the Ernst & Young ITEM Club, commissioned by Channel 4 News.

The ITEM Club, the only private-sector organisation to use the Treasury's economic model, has calculated the effect of various combinations of taxation and spending under both a Tory and a New Labour government over the next five years. The message is deeply unwelcome to both as they gear up for the election, determined to make tax a key issue.

The new calculations clearly show that, only by keeping taxes where they are currently (and that is still a net £12 billion higher than when the Norman Lamont-Kenneth Clarke double act had to raise them to pay for the costs of recession) and freezing public spending in real terms for the next few years, will the public finances return to anywhere near balance in the foreseeable future. Paul Droop, the ITEM Club's chief economist, said: "These figures give a very clear message — that it is far, far too soon to be talking about reducing the tax burden on the country. The public sector is not paying its way at the moment and is not likely to for the next five years."

For the Conservative Party,



Promises promises: Tory poster proclaiming the average family is £700 better off...



... Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, unveiling the Labour Party view

the message is that tax cuts in November and in any new five-year term should not be contemplated if the Chancellor is to achieve his aim of restoring the public finances to balance in the medium term. Neither the party's pledge finally to achieve a 20p lower income tax band nor the long-term abolition of capital gains and inheritance tax are compatible with its fiscal aims, without further large real cuts in public spending.

For New Labour, there is no

way that it can achieve its tax promises — an eventual 10p tax band for the low-paid and the abolition of 8 per cent VAT on domestic fuel — as well as sustainability in the public finances, without huge cuts in public spending.

The ITEM Club's first set of calculations assumes that an incoming government — Tory or Labour — delivers no tax cuts and freezes public spending in real terms. In this case, the public sector borrowing requirement reaches virtual

balance at £700 million in the financial year 1999-2000. In the next year, the budget would be in surplus to the tune of £5 billion. It then works out what the impact on the public finances would be if the parties managed to freeze growth in public spending but delivered their main tax promises in a phased way.

For the Conservatives, the assumption is that the 20p tax band is achieved in three further stages, with 2p off the basic rate in November and

further cuts of 1p in 1997 and 1998. Under this scenario, a Conservative government would fail to achieve budget balance by the end of the century. The ITEM Club reckons that the PSBR would still be £8.3 billion in 1999-2000 and £2.8 billion in 2000-01.

For Labour, the assumption is that the 10p tax band is achieved in stages by 1999 and that VAT on fuel is abolished. However, the calculations also assume that Labour sticks with already published Conservative privatisation plans. Given that this is not likely in real life, this set of calculations has to be regarded as somewhat over-optimistic. In this scenario, the PSBR would still be £11.6 billion in 1999-2000 and £4 billion the next year.

The ITEM Club, however, does not regard either of the above assumptions as realistic because the idea of any government — whether Conservative or Labour — managing to freeze public spending for years on end simply flies in the face of historical reality. Mr Droop notes that, over the past 25 years, public spending has shown real average annual growth of 1.5 per cent.

Given this record, the ITEM Club has been generous in its public spending assumptions, pencilling in real growth over the next five years of only 1 per cent per annum. Along with current tax promises, this leaves both Conservatives and Labour badly adrift on the public finances.

Assuming a 20p tax band and some growth in public spending, the Conservatives would face a PSBR in 1999-2000 of some £16.7 billion and £13.6 billion in 2000-01.

For Labour, similar growth in public spending is assumed, together with the achievement of a 10p tax band and the abolition of VAT on fuel, with an additional assumption that Labour will not go ahead with current Conservative plans to cut capital spending. This leaves Labour in an even worse position than its rivals with a PSBR in 1999-2000 of £21.2 billion.

It could be argued that neither total is too onerous a burden for the economy as both come well under the Maastricht treaty limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product. And, in both the Tory and Labour scenarios, inflation rises to only 4.1 per cent, in spite of years of relatively strong economic growth, and unemployment falls to near 1.5 million.

Nevertheless, neither party could boast of being the party of sound public finances with public borrowing at these multi-billion levels after eight years of uninterrupted economic growth. And neither can justify their tax-cutting election campaigns.

Telephone call
sparked quest
for millions

Jason Nissé on the struggle to protect
Maxwell pensioners as funds vanished

The voice on the telephone sounded worried. "There seems to be something wrong with the pension fund," it said. "There's a black hole."

The call came in late November 1991, just a few weeks after Robert Maxwell's death. The caller was a banker who was a huge lender to the late publisher's empire, and it was the moment when the bankers trying to put together a rescue knew there was no hope.

At first they thought £50 million was missing, then £100 million, and then the full horror became apparent. More than £400 million of pension fund assets had gone missing — not stolen, it seems, as no one has ever been found guilty of fraud or theft. More than 30,000 employees and former employees of the Maxwell empire found their future and current pensions under threat.

Action was swift. Kevin and Ian Maxwell were dismissed as directors of Mirror Group Newspapers and Maxwell Communication Corporation, and resigned as pension fund trustees.

Robson Rhodes, the accountants, were made trustees of the companies that ran the pension funds and, with Stephen Harwood, the lawyers, began the long task of trying to fill the gap.

The first success was to persuade National Westminster Bank to hand back nearly £30 million of shares in Teva Pharmaceutical, of Israel, pledged as collateral for loans made to private companies run by Kevin Maxwell a matter of days after Robert Maxwell's death. They turned out to belong to the pension fund, not the private companies.

Then Kevin Maxwell was made bankrupt, having been found by the civil courts to be liable for the whole amount missing from the funds. However, little was recovered from him.

Mirror Group agreed to guarantee pensions for its current and former employees at a cost of £140 million. Though this reduced the worries of about 15,000 pensioners, the rest still fretted about their future.

A series of legal actions were begun against various companies that had ended up with assets from the

pension funds or had handed them along the route out of the funds and into bankers' hands. A few settled. Bank of America was the first, handing over £25 million in January 1994. It was swiftly followed by Invesco, the fund manager, which paid £11 million, and Capel-Cure Myers and Lehman Brothers, two securities firms, which handed over £6 million and £15 million, respectively. None of the four admitted any liability.

Meanwhile, under the guidance of Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, a quasi-governmental body was set up to try to broker a settlement. Sir John Cuckney, the former M15 agent and chairman of 3i, was put in charge of the so-called Maxwell Pension Unit.

After three years of work, he was able to persuade a handful of City firms that had dealt with Maxwell to donate £276 million to the pension funds in exchange for an agreement not to continue or issue any legal actions in connection with the affair. The largest known contributors were two US firms, Goldman Sachs, which paid £75 million, and Lehman, giving £50 million, though Coopers &

Lybrand, the accountancy firm, is known to have donated a substantial sum. In addition, the Government gave a £115 million interest-free loan to the funds, which means they are now fully covered and can pay all pensions in full. Since then, Credit Suisse, the Swiss bank, has handed over £3 million to settle another legal action, taking the total recovered by the pension fund trustees to £390 million. One action is still outstanding, a £30 million writ against Banque Nationale de Paris.

Though at no time were pensions not paid, more than 1,000 pensioners died not knowing whether their pension funds were fully covered. When the pension settlement was struck last year, Ken Trench, of the Maxwell Pensioners' Action Group, said: "That returned things to equilibrium and saved the pensioners in financial terms. But no one should underestimate the four years of mental turmoil they suffered."

Sony casts around for new
plot after Hollywood flops

Pity poor Sony. After seven years in Hollywood it has lost more than \$3 billion, produced a string of flops and precious few hits, and seems unable to find a way out of the morass.

Alan Levine, head of Sony Pictures, which includes the Columbia Tri-Star studio, is likely to lose his job, following a stream of senior executives out of the door. The question is: Can Sony ever make a success of its Hollywood white elephant or is it doomed to perpetual failure?

The latest executive sacking came this week with the departure of Mark Canton, chairman of Columbia Tri-Star. Under his brief chairmanship, the studios had produced box-office failures such as *The Fan* (with Robert DeNiro), the *Cable Guy* (whose star, Jim Carrey, was paid \$20 million) and *Multiplicity*. Hollywood insiders said he was a bad appointment since he had no feel for what audiences really wanted. Yet he is departing with a pay-off of around \$15 million.

Sony immediately added to its embarrassment by publicly bungling the hiring of the highly respected Hollywood agent, Arnold Rifkin, who rejected the job. Instead, Sony appointed, as a vice-chairman, Lucy Fisher, who perhaps wisely has refused to accept the title of full chairwoman.

That, however, was only the latest round of executive musical chairs. Earlier in the summer, Mr Levine fired the president of Columbia and Tri-Star. Meanwhile, Mr Canton's pay-off is small beer compared to the \$200 million



Jim Carrey in Cable Guy: \$20 million pay cheque

predecessor, who was ousted two years ago after an equally disastrous series of dud films. And last year Micky Schulhof, famed for his extravagance, was ousted as head of Sony's North American operations. Mr Levine, an entertainment lawyer who had never run a company, was given the task of reigning in the lavish spending and sorting out Sony Picture's finances after Guber. He has successfully fulfilled this task but shows no aptitude for picking or promoting hit films and insiders believe

It is a storyline that has never really had any high points. Sony bought Columbia in 1989 for \$5 billion with the idea that it would generate entertainment software to match its hardware. Believing that only Americans understood Hollywood, it watched in horror as high-spending US executives poured money into an apparently bottomless pit with hardly a hit film to show for it. In 1994 Sony had to write off \$2.7 billion.

The disastrous foray into films was mirrored by equally

music division. It became embroiled in the long-running legal action with George Michael, one of its biggest-selling stars, who claimed Sony was stifling him artistically. It also spent some \$30 million promoting Michael Jackson's less than successful *HIStory* album.

Recently, Sony's attitude towards its wayward US entertainment divisions has hardened. With the appointment of Idei Nobuyuki last year as head of the Sony Corporation in Japan, the company has begun taking a firmer hand. Mr Nobuyuki is determined to get the operation to make serious profits.

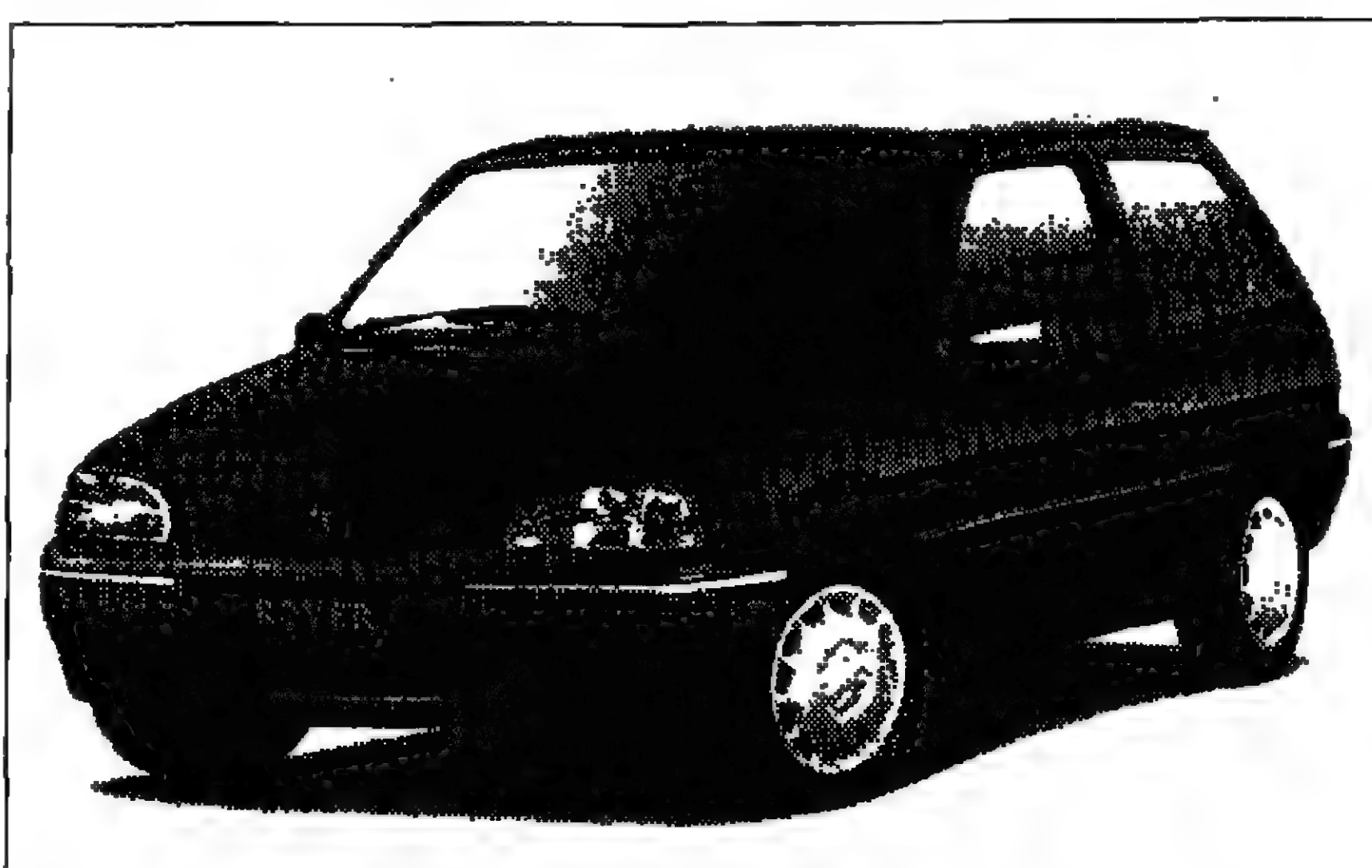
In terms of Sony's \$49 billion in world sales, the US entertainment losses are relatively insignificant. But the group is intensely aware of its image, and its Hollywood foray has been nothing but a profound embarrassment. The question Mr Nobuyuki must now be pondering is whether Sony can ever make Columbia Tri-Star work. He has been talking to experts such as Michael Eisner at Disney, and Barry Diller, the TV mogul, but, in the short term, he needs strong managers for Sony Pictures, and a formula that works.

In the longer term, he may conclude that Sony does not need entertainment software — particularly if it cannot make the business pay. In that case, Columbia may be put up for sale and, more than likely, more senior executives will find themselves out of a job. As a plot denouement, it would have a certain poetic justice.

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TES

The Times Educational Supplement

Blagden restores interim

Blagden Industries, the packaging and chemicals company, is restoring its interim dividend at 1p a share (1995 - nil) after lifting pre-tax profits to £7.4 million from £4.2 million in the half year to June 30. Earnings rose to 7p a share from 3.7p.

David Kendall, chairman, said the turnaround programme from the time of a restructuring in May 1994 was now largely complete. In spite of some increase in the pressure on margins, the second half would confirm the company's recovery. The shares rose 10p to 195p.

Daniels rises

S Daniels, the food manufacturing and distribution company, earned pre-tax profits of £81,000 in the six months to June 30 (£3.1 million loss). Earnings were 0.3p a share (36.7p loss). There is an interim dividend of 0.1p (nil). The company has disposed of three of its original businesses and completed its first acquisition.

Avesta loss

About 85 jobs are to be lost with the closure of the steelworks of Avesta Sheffield at Panteg, South Wales. Production is to move to British Steel's works at Stocksbridge. Avesta Sheffield said its cold rolling business at Panteg, with 200 staff, was unaffected.

RMC hurt by decline in Germany

By Keith Rodgers

PRE-TAX profits at RMC, the building materials group, dropped 26.5 per cent to £95.8 million in the first half as weak European economies and severe weather conditions took their toll.

The company was hit hard in Germany, its largest market, where trading profit fell from £65.2 million to £28 million on turnover down from £882.2 million to £732.7 million. RMC gave warning that the second half would also be weak in Germany and a gentle decline in volumes is expected in 1997.

Hopes of a recovery in UK house building were also dashed in the first half and infrastructure investment declined further, contributing to an overall fall in UK trading profit of 14.7 per cent. However, Peter Young, the chief executive, said that prices remained firm.

Although the company expects an improvement in the second half, the results prompted a downgrading in the full-year projections of several analysts, with BZW dropping its forecast from £300 million to £285 million. One analyst suggested the figures were broadly in line with expectations, but the mix of results was different, with the German performance lower than expected.

Group turnover fell 5.1 per

cent to £2114.9 million, while earnings per share decreased 28.6 per cent on the previous year's adjusted figure to 22.2p. The company has declared a slightly increased dividend of 7.8p per share, payable on November 29.

The results included £3.5 million redundancy costs, which are likely to increase in the second half.

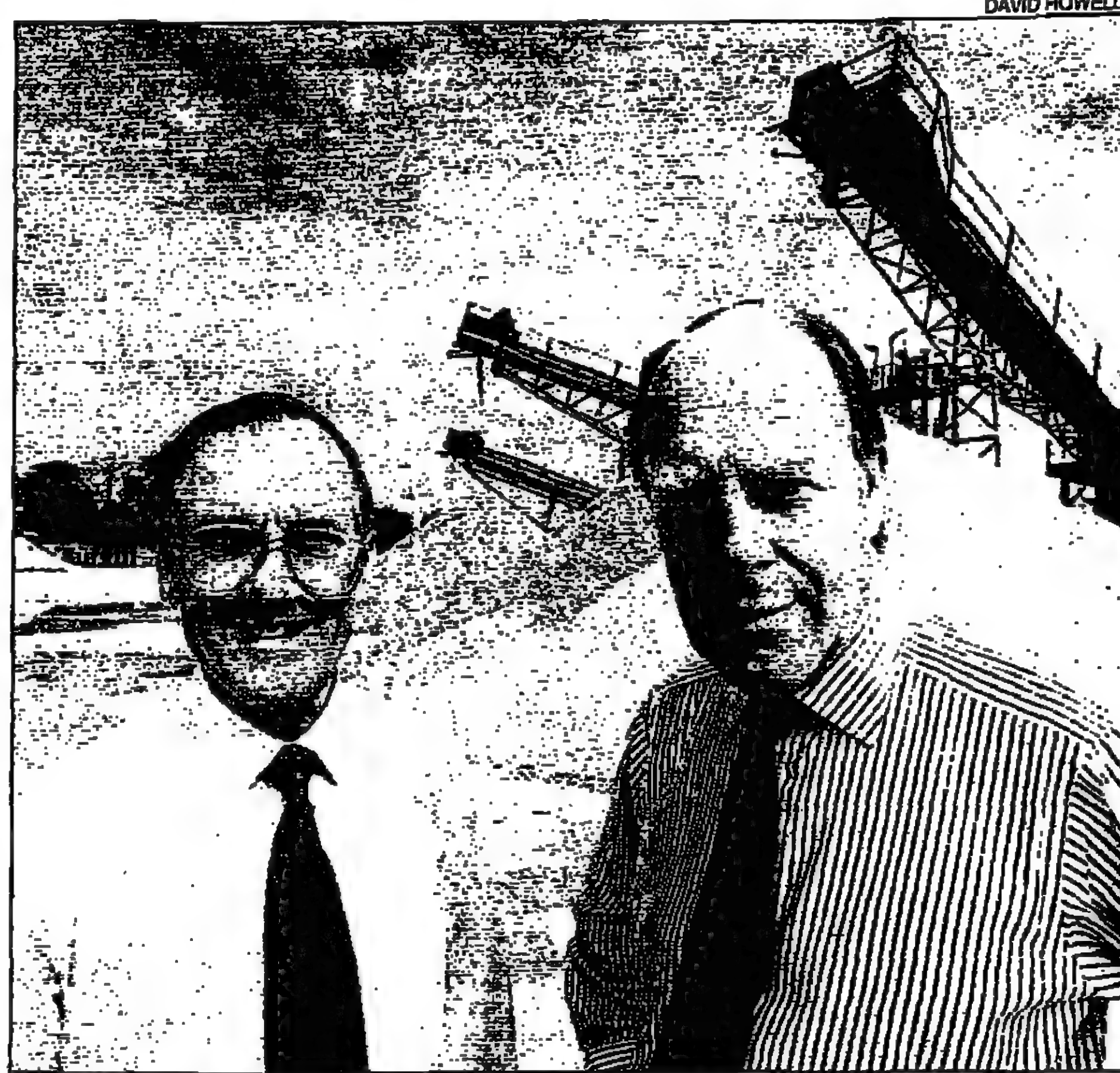
Elsewhere in Europe, Austria was hit by severe weather, the French construction industry continues to deteriorate, but profits increased in Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

The US operation, which will be the third-largest contributor to the group this year, saw substantially increased profits. However, profits in Israel remained flat. Mr Young said the company had set up a "toe-in-the-water" joint venture in India and Jordan, and was still looking to move into Malaysia.

Profits climbed at the company's Great Mills DIY stores, but conditions were tough in its builders merchants chain. The company indicated that it was keeping an eye on events at Wickes, the DIY retailer.

Gearing fell from 47.3 per cent to 35.9 per cent, and the company expects it to fall to 30 per cent over the year unless it makes a major acquisition.

Tempos, page 26



Maurice Warren, left, chairman of Camas, and Alan Shearer, chief executive

Camas suffers setback

By Martin Barrow

CAMAS, the construction materials company, is holding its interim dividend at 1.25p after suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.9 million, from £6.7 million, in the six months to June 30.

The company said that a strong performance in America had partially offset the adverse effect of a difficult UK market but could not prevent a decline in group operating profits to £6.5 million, from £9.2 million. Turnover was

little changed at £192.4 million, against £196.3 million.

Profits from European activities, including the UK, fell to £9.5 million, from £13.3 million, after a charge of £2 million against further rationalisation to match capacity to a changing market. American operations made a strong start to the year after the winter shutdown and the operating loss of £1 million was £1.2 million less than in the previous first half.

Alan Shearer, chief executive, said that UK aggregate and asphalt volumes would remain subdued in the absence of an improvement in housebuilding and with a continuation of reduced spending on roads. Aggregate prices remain firm in all Camas's markets and the operation continued to benefit from cuts in the cost base made in the period and in past years.

Earnings per share fell to 1.1p, from 1.53p. The interim dividend is due on December 2.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Benjamin Priest boosts Alumasc

PROFITS at Alumasc Group, the engineering and construction products company, rose to £14.1 million before tax in the year to June 30, from £11.2 million in the previous 12 months. The rise was helped by a maiden contribution from Benjamin Priest, which was acquired in October 1995 for £35 million. Earnings were 24.3p a share, rising from an adjusted 21.9p previously. The dividend is increased to 5p a share from 7.04p, with a 5.55p final. The shares rose 10p to 410p, yesterday.

With the addition of the ten businesses that comprised the Benjamin Priest group, the company's product mix has changed, with the engineering sector accounting for two thirds of turnover and construction for one third. John McCall, chairman, said that Alumasc was set to benefit from the anticipated upturn in private construction and industrial investment, although market conditions would result in a contraction of the beer container business.

United Carriers recovers

UNITED CARRIERS GROUP, the parcels and freight company, has returned to profit, earning £750,000 before tax in the half year to June 30. Losses were £1.4 million before tax in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 1.9p a share, against losses of 5.6p previously. The shares rose 4½ p to 94½ p yesterday. The company said the outcome for the full year depended largely upon volumes during the busy autumn period. Results for the second half so far are in line with forecasts.

Ricardo pays the same

RICARDO GROUP, the automotive design and testing company, is holding its total dividend at 6.3p a share in spite of suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million, from £6.16 million, in the year to June 30. The latest results included a £1.45 million charge against discontinued operations. Earnings per share fell to 5.9p, from 9p. The final dividend is held at 4.3p a share, payable on November 29. The company said that its year-end order position was satisfactory. The shares fell 10p to 115p.

New Ireland lifts payout

STIFF competition in the home and car insurance market resulted in a drop in interim profits for New Ireland Holdings, the insurance group based in Dublin. For the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits slipped to £4.95 million from £15.28 million. Earnings dropped to 12.6p from 12.7p, but the company declared a 10.1 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 12.67p, payable on October 16. Life assurance and pensions business both recorded strong growth. The company said the results were satisfactory in a competitive environment.

Power station inquiry

PLANS by PowerGen to build a gas-fired power station on part of a former steelworks at Gartoch will go to a public inquiry, Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, announced yesterday. The inquiry, which comes after an objection by North Lanarkshire Council, is expected to be held early next year. Mr Forsyth's consent is required for construction of any power station of more than 50 megawatts generating capacity. However, an application objected to by the relevant planning authority must be considered by a public inquiry.

IBC raises profits

IBC Group, the publishing and conferences company, said it remained "cautiously optimistic" after reporting a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £7.2 million in the half-year to June 30. Earnings rose 13 per cent to 14.8p a share. The interim dividend is increased to 3.3p a share from 3p, due November 11. After disposal of the mainly low-margin consumer newsletters, overall publishing margins improved to 21 per cent (15 per cent) and the publishing division earned operating profits of £2.39 million (£1.41 million).

Deltron value £27.6m

DELTRON Electronics, the specialist electronics company, will be capitalised at £27.6 million when it achieves a full stock market listing via its share placing this month. The company, with operations in Britain and France, distributes and manufactures switches, filters, alarms, connectors, security products and electronic point-of-sale equipment. Directors forecast pre-tax profits of £2.24 million in the current financial year, a 79 per cent increase over the previous 12 months.

Spandex ahead

SPANDEX, the supplier of materials to the signmaking industry, achieved a 125 per cent increase in its pre-tax profits, up to £4.5 million from £4 million, in the half-year to June 30. Earnings per share advanced 12 per cent, to 8.6p. An interim dividend of 1.1p a share, up from 1p, is due to be paid on January 10. The company said that its £1.5 million acquisition of ND Graphic Products in Canada, announced in April, had significantly extended its operations outside Europe.

Era optimistic

ERA GROUP, the retail and distribution company that owns the Beattie's chain of toy shops, said that there was some indication that the "feel-good" factor is starting to appear, auguring well for the key Christmas trading period. The company incurred an increase in pre-tax losses, to £2.57 million from £1.78 million, in the six months to June 30. Losses were 1.49p a share, against 1.05p last time. The company does not pay an interim dividend.

Albright shines on despite high costs

By Sarah Cunningham

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the specialty chemicals group, defied continuing high raw material costs to deliver improved interim profits.

The company, the world's biggest producer of purified phosphoric acid, lifted pre-tax profits 6 per cent to £32 million in the six months to June 30.

Robin Paul, chief executive, said raw material costs added £43 million to bills in 1995 as a whole and had added £6 million in the first half as prices failed to fall back as the company had hoped.

A number of one-off factors will limit the performance of the company's phosphates division in the second half. It will have to buy in sulphuric acid for its plant in Mexico during the refurbishment of its own sulphuric plant. The temporary closure will cost £1 million in the second half. Higher Chinese phosphorous prices will also have an impact.

Total restructuring charges may be as much as £3.5 million in the full year. The company said that growth in the division should resume in 1997.

Material costs in the surfactants division, which makes wetting and foaming agents for detergents and toiletries, were relatively stable during the period, with cost-cutting and improved volumes helping operating profits to rise to £5.6 million (£1.8 million). Lower raw material costs also helped specialty chemicals to boost operating profits 7.9 per cent to £8.2 million.

The group's gearing stood at 14 per cent. Earnings per share were 15 per cent up at 7.5p and the interim dividend has been lifted to 2.25p (2.15p), payable on November 21.

Go-Ahead and Victory win Thames Trains franchise

By Fraser Nelson

GO-AHEAD GROUP, the bus operator, has won its joint bid for the Thames Trains franchise, promising to operate free from government subsidy within eight years.

The network, which carries Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, into work each morning, will be co-owned and entirely run by its old management. Go-Ahead plans to take a hands-off attitude to the business. Victory Railway Holdings, although it is providing £8.43 million of the £9.5 million needed to support the bid.

This is being paid by a loan note of £4.05 million, £130,000 in share subscription and a performance bond of £4.25 million. Go-Ahead retains a 65 per cent stake in Victory.



Salmon: subsidy pledge

Roger Salmon, franchising director, said the Government would subsidise the service, starting with £31.7 million for the first year, until March 31, 2004 when Victory's franchise runs out. Go-Ahead is fund-

ing the £8.43 million by borrowings of £1.49 million and by placing £6.94 million of shares with institutions at 305p each.

Its shares shot up 56p, to an all-time high of 373½ p yesterday, buoyed by its strong results for the year to June 30. Having recovered from the effects of a price war with Thames Transit, its Oxford bus rival, it turned in full-year pre-tax profits of £11.1 million (£8.5 million). Earnings were 24.6p (21.9p) per share, and a final dividend of 3.7p, payable on November 28, makes a total 5.55p (4.8p).

The Thames Trains network runs from Hereford to London's Paddington station and Gatwick Airport. Victory said it will double the frequency of trains between Oxford and Paddington.

In 1995, LG's annual sales grew 40% to over US\$64 billion.



It's nice to meet you.

It's Matt Ryan's job to listen.

As a Senior Designer at LG Electronics Design-Tech, Matt must intimately understand the different aesthetics of each European country. And then translate that understanding into intelligently designed TVs, VCRs, microwaves and other products. (Matt and his colleagues even helped design their company's Red Oak House headquarters.)

At LG, we listen a lot to our customers. We think that habit explains why we're leaders in advanced applications like thin-film transistor liquid crystal displays and high-definition TV.

We're active in many other business areas too, including DRAM memory chips, pharmaceuticals, and satellite communications.

And the same dedication and customer focus Matt Ryan and his fellow designers bring to their work, our 126,000 other employees bring to our other areas of expertise.

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مكتبة من الأصول

Earlier gains halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996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FEATURE

Smith, Susan, Thomson, Jane, Gregory and John McNamara.

"What good
is a good idea
if no-one
ever hears it?"

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POP 1

On and on: after a gruesome start, the story of the Longpigs has turned celebrity corner



POP 2

The groove's the thing: DJ Shadow cuts up a mean beat on his new *Endtroducing*

THE ARTS



POP 3

Smug ironies, and possibly the most irritating voice in pop: can Space overcome these small problems?



POP 4

Multinational aggression comes from the bizarre souls of Disciplin A Kitchme

Confessions of a young cannibal

Once, Crispin Hunt wanted to be a priest. Then he lost God and founded the Longpigs. Ann Scanlon reports

The morning after the Longpigs made their live debut in America, there are so many British musicians and record company executives in the foyer of New York's Paramount Hotel that it looks more like a fashionable spot in Manhattan.

Among those sprawled across the furniture are the Longpigs, who are in the city to take part in its annual CMJ Music Marathon and Musicfest, a four-day event featuring live performances from hundreds of bands, including fellow Brits the

Bluetones, Kula Shaker, Manic Street Preachers and Super Furry Animals. Like almost everyone else in the lobby, Crispin Hunt, the 26-year-old singer-guitarist of the Longpigs, has had very little sleep. He, though, spent most of the previous night exploring the more obscure parts of Greenwich Village rather than hanging out at after-show parties.

"I'm not interested in poncing around with loads of other musicians," he says over coffee in a diner just around the corner from the Paramount. "I've seen a couple of gigs, but I haven't been to a single party. As soon as I get to one I have to leave, because it's like, 'What is this? This is just Camden being recreated in the bar of an American hotel.' People think Camden is cool, but to me, it's like an overgrown students union."

Hunt's good-natured disregard for the music business and all that is currently fashionable was nurtured during the Longpigs' troubled early years — although he admits, with mild embarrassment, that he recently relocated from Sheffield to the more bohemian quarters of Notting Hill in West London.

Hunt formed the Longpigs — the name came from a book about cannibalism — with drummer Dee Boyle and bassist Simon Stafford in November 1991, with guitarist Richard Hawley joining a year later. They

signed to the Warner Bros offshoot, Elektra, recorded an album with the high-profile producer Gil Norton and were already "practising at being pop stars" when everything collapsed around them.

The first sign that things were no longer going according to plan came when Hunt was speeding down the M1 at 70 miles per hour and unexpectedly piled his car into the back of a lorry. Hunt, who was raised a Catholic and had once considered the priesthood but eventually settled for pop stardom instead, fell into a

coma. When he awoke three days later, he was a confirmed atheist. "Some people who have near-death experiences see tunnels of light and immediately become Christians," he says. "But I just woke up and thought, 'This is it. When you're dead you're dead.'"

Heaven might not exist, but Hunt was soon to discover that limbo did. Just as the Longpigs were about to release their debut single, Elektra closed its British office and slapped such a heavy price tag on the band's head that no other label would touch it. Around the same time, Hunt was further devastated when his first serious romance came to an abrupt end. "It was proper love," he says now. "The kind that they make movies and write songs about."

Eventually, the Longpigs wrangled their way out of the record deal and, by the end of 1994, had signed up with Mother, the label U2 started in Dublin in the mid-1980s. They then recorded another debut album, *The Son is Often Out*, which featured "the greatest hits" from the shelved record and several new songs (including their new single, *Lost Myself*).

Rather than being lumped in with the Britpop masses, the Longpigs' soulful songs and Hunt's impressive vocal range earned them favourable comparisons with Radiohead. "I'd rather be compared to Radiohead than Northern Uproar or Bis," Hunt

sings to 20,000 people is like having 20,000 therapists



"Rock'n'roll is supposed to be about breaking rules, not creating them": the Longpigs — (from left) Simon Stafford, Richard Hawley, Crispin Hunt and Dee Boyle — follow the path of righteousness

says. "I think all this revivalism is really sad. Call me old-fashioned, but rock'n'roll is supposed to be about breaking rules, not creating them. It's not meant to be about fitting in, and I think that's working to our advantage."

Hunt has also managed to get the most out of his failed love affair by using it as the basis for the anthemic

On and On, which gave the Longpigs their first Top 20 hit in the summer. Performing such personal songs has also provided a useful substitute for the Catholic ritual he most enjoyed.

"I used to love confession," he says. "I mean, people spend thousands of pounds on therapists and you get to tell your sins to a priest for free. But

singing songs like *On and On* in front of 20,000 people is a form of confession — it's like having 20,000 therapists — and when they all clap at the end it's the biggest kick you can imagine."

The new single *Lost Myself* is released on Monday by Mother. Longpigs' British tour begins tomorrow at Manchester University

A jagged little pill to swallow

Real women should take no pride in the success of Alanis, Tori and other female singer-songwriters

Sometimes, the music industry is so predictable you could set your watch by it. Almost exactly ten years since the last glut of "intense" female singer-songwriters, we're hitting this decade's lot right on time. Undeterred by the careers that petered out for the likes of Tanita Tikaram and Julia Fordham, A&R men the world over have again gone girl crazy.

This year's depressing slew contains Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, Patti Rothberg, Tori Amos and at least another half-dozen skinny-bottomed women with photogenic faces and a couple of problems that rhyme with each other.

Now, there's a difference between humourless feminist whingeing and pointing things out. If I should say: "Well, we have a bunch of safe, pretty girls singing about nothing much; and this is because men rule everything," then that is a whinge. Should I point out that the majority of A&R men are, indeed, men, and will therefore only sign female artists that they, as men, can understand, then you'll start to see my point.

This is what A & R men understand women singing about: how a man doesn't love them any more; how they've found a new man to love; how the world is, like, weird; sex. And so these are the only female singer-songwriters we see.

Pretty depressing when you consider that singer-songwriters are prestige, "classy" artists, and "classy" artists generally get more leeway in terms of unconventional looks and opinions. Incredibly depressing when you consider that women look like everything, and want to sing about everything. Part of the problem is retroism — a trend much discussed with reference to Cass, Ocean

Colour Scene and Oasis. What hasn't been discussed is the way sexual politics in the music industry has become retro-fused too.

These female singer-songwriters are "kooky" hippy chicks; barefoot with an acoustic guitar trying to understand the world. They are a throwback to the faux childhood innocence venerated in women in the Sixties; and retro completely ignores the trend over the past 15 years for solo female artists to be like Madonna, Janet Jackson and Courtney Love. To be women, basically, and not little girls.

Another shocking part of this trend is how quickly we've forgotten the advances in the subject matters women are "allowed" to tackle. Morissette's debut album caused a storm in the press, because of its sexually explicit lyrics. These were seen as challenging. How could they be? Ninety per cent of the songs in the charts at the moment are about wanting to have sex. How can a beautiful woman saying she enjoys it be seen as challenging? Even the readers and writers of *Loaded* have realised women like sex.

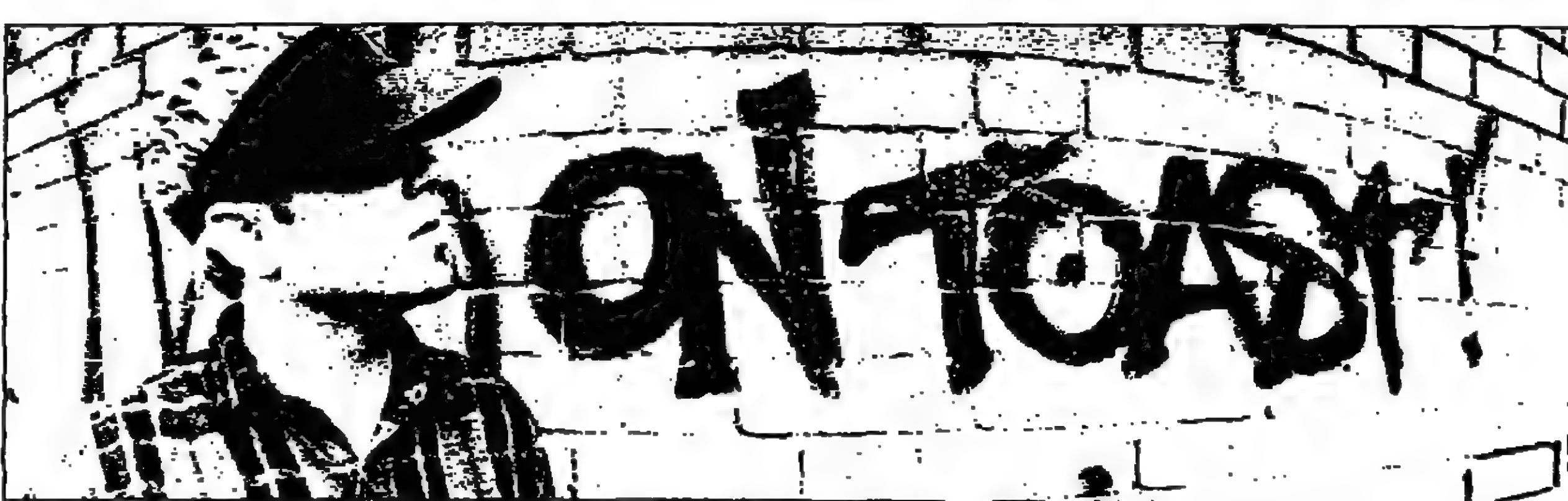
But bring me a fat chick singing about oral sex — that's challenging. How about a fortysomething woman singing about it, or a rather "plain" girl singing about how "ugly" women are better in bed? Or women who have no desire to sing about love or sex at all? Who want to sing about champagne, supernovas and teen spirit and working class heroes?

In order to find its own identity, a generation must have a vast range of identities to choose from. While our most successful female artists are emotionally restricted, questionably marketed and look like members of the cast of *Friends*, I doubt whether we're providing that range.



CAITLIN MORAN

ALBUMS: From mercurial moods, through smug Space, to a deranged diva



Not joshing: California's DJ Shadow — "Mike Oldfield meets Terminator X on the edge of a very dark dream"

Dancing in deep Shadow

DJ SHADOW

Endtroducing... (Mo Wax/A&M MW059) ALTHOUGH better known to his Mum as plain old Josh Davis from Davis, California, DJ Shadow is a recording artist whose work lives up to his assumed name. Nominally a product of the American hip-hop genre, his debut album, *Endtroducing...*, is subject to the kind of mysterious shifts in mood and tempo usually associated in this country with Bristol's otherworldly trip-hop brigade.

But while the current fashion among British DJs is to pump out ever more pneumatic techno beats, Shadow takes more traditional funk rhythms as his template. "I'm a student of the drums," he announces on *Building Steam with a Grain of Salt*, and you will not hear a more lovingly produced facsimile of that big, super-lakey James Brown drum sound anywhere.

There are no tunes to speak of: groove and atmosphere is all. But as the beats are cut up and bounced across the turntables, and translucent keyboard parts swim in and out of the mix during the nine-

minute-long *Stem/Long Stem*, the music gradually assumes an almost symphonic shape. It is as if Mike Oldfield had met Terminator X on the edge of a very dark dream and forged an album of unlikely, mercurial delights.

SPACE

Spiders (Gut Records/Total Independence GUTCDI)

SPACE are the much fancied group from Liverpool whose efforts tend to be hampered by the fact that singer Jamie Murphy has the most irritating voice in pop. Mangling his vowels, rolling his Rs and whining like a child being forced to eat his greens, he combines the exaggerated

mannerisms of Steve Harley and John Lydon to excruciatingly meaningless effect on their debut album, *Spiders*.

The songs are peopled by a grubby cast of weirdos (*Neighbourhood*), nutters (*Mister Psycho*), money-grubbing ingrates (*Money*), petty criminals (*Me and You vs the World*) and John Major (*Major Paper*), all of whose anti-social antics are documented with a worldly sneer and a voyeuristic eye for detail.

As writers, Space do have a way of producing a catchy pop tune, it is true. But the vaudeville touches and pseudo-Bacharach string arrangements add further layers of ironic kitsch to a package that is already too smug by half.

DISCIPLIN A KITSCHME

I Think I See Myself On CCTV (Babaroga BABA CDLI)

AN extraordinary line-up. Disciplin A Kitchme feature a bass player called Black Tooth from Belgrade, a drummer known as Beat from Auckland and singer Goffie Bebe from Shepherd's Bush. Located at that unlikely junction where old-style progressive rock meets the pumped-up grooves of the rave generation, their stock-in-trade is a take-no-prisoners style of riffing spiced to a swift, furiously banging beat.

Black Tooth, who wrote and produced the album, has a marauding approach to the bass that recalls the wilder extremes of fusion virtuoso Stanley Clarke. Goffie Bebe, meanwhile, sounds like a diva from the more raucous wing of American R&B. She emotes furiously but rarely gets hold of a tune.

A spectacular display of energy and aggression, *I Think I See Myself On CCTV* will certainly go down as one of the most intriguingly deranged albums of the year.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Kula Shaker (Columbia)
- 2 New Adventures In Hi-Fi (R.E.M. (Warner Bros)
- 3 Travelling Without Moving (Jarricoquel (Sony S2)
- 4 Jagged Little Pill (Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 5 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? (Oasis (Creation)
- 6 The Score (Fugees (Columbia)
- 7 Older (George Michael (Virgin)
- 8 Moseley Shoals (Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 9 The Smurfs Go Pop! (Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 10 Recurring Dream — Best of (Crowded House (Capitol)

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■ OPERA

Orchestral beauty lifts the ENO's bedroom-farce staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



■ THEATRE 1

Metaphor piles on metaphor as Neil Bartlett puts Balzac on stage in Hammersmith

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

... while Schnitzler is turned into song in *Romance*, *Romance* at the Bridewell



■ TOMORROW

Puccini in Leeds; and a great Tiepolo show in Venice: read the verdict of our top critics

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on a fantasy; and the fringe

Queen of his heart

IF NEIL Bartlett were ever to dramatise a nursery rhyme, you can be sure he would not willingly tell a straightforward tale of optically challenged rodents who make the unwise career move of running after a woman with a knife and end up terminally challenged as well. For a start, the show's narrator would be the moody son of the knife-grinder, whose hobby was mending clocks and who could tell a tale of mice — to a striking melody written by Nicolas Bloomfield.

Sarrasine
Lyric, Hammersmith

Before long the mice of one story would be interchangeable with the mice of the other. There would be levels of meaning, and like as not the whole business would be a metaphor of the artist's life. This is the method he has applied to Balzac's story of young Jean-Ernest Sarrasine, haunted by the beautiful voice and physique of the singer

known as La Zambinella. Not until the tragic climax does he discover that the woman he loves is a castrato. In Bartlett's version a poised and wealthy woman (Sara Kestelman) is lured to the stage of an empty theatre where La Zambinella, or her ghosts, emerge from the shadows to sing their memories of the young man who loved them long ago. The oldest ghost is the chestnut-voiced Bette Bourne, wearing one of his favourite rich red gowns: Lady Disdain one moment, Lady Muck the next. The middle ghost is played by Beverley Klein, also fond of oscillating or overlapping genres, in her case those of tragedy and comedy queens. Youngest of the three is the hauntingly androgynous François Testory, who sings in something like a counter-tenor voice from operatic evergreens. Bloomfield provides attractively quirky music of his own, including arias by a composer I almost recognise, probably Bellini.

Intricately told and beautifully lit, the story has one aria too many — particularly as the voices lack the legendary glories of the castrati. But the show is an exotic, tender occasion, part fantasy, part cry from the heart.



Sara Kestelman and François Testory in *Sarrasine*

CURIOSITY Theatre Company is certainly aptly named. Chris Goode's play *Kissing Bingo* (at the Finborough) is very odd indeed. It glances from unexpected oblique angles at disturbed adolescents, domestic abuse and — possibly — parental murder. Goode's vision is aberrant but distinctly interesting.

In a weird white realm two teenagers are lying on their backs. Suddenly Tammy (Deborah O'Malley) is up and talking to us, blank-faced but manic. She tells us Mummy and Daddy have been killed in a car accident. They were, she adds, without batting an eyelid, watching telly at the time, apparently innocently living in a cardboard reconstruction of the family home assembled by her brother Leo and placed on a motorway.

Tammy's monologue hovers between the absurd and the unsettling. In subsequent scenes we veer between past and present, reality and fantasy. We enter the sibling's memories, glimpsing increasingly nightmarish parents. In the here and now, Tammy and Leo have been taken to by three bizarre pals — Eric, Pig and Angel. Leo

■ FRINGE THEATRE

Parents past and present

(latently aggressive Finlay Robertson) latches onto Angel (scruffy Gregory McFarrell), insisting he is his lost brother and redeemer.

Sometimes, the acting is stiff. Goode's drama fails to tie up satisfactorily and is weak on interaction. But his monologues are startling, abstruse, and poetically incisive. Far more mainstream, we have a pair of musicals at the Bridewell. *Romance*, *Romance*, originally an off-Broadway hit, is hardly heart-searching but is staged with considerable swish (director Steven Dexter). Lyricist Barry Harman and composer Keith Herrman, making a song and a dance out of a short story by Schnitzler, first transport us back to turn-of-the-century Vi-

enna. *The Little Comedy* is a satirical love story about the upper crust entertaining romantic notions about roughing it. A fine lady and a dapper gent simultaneously fancy having a fling with some charmingly poverty-stricken stranger. Josephine and Alfred promenade incognito, as seamstress and bohemian poet, and are fooled by each other. The rich characters, who sing, have alter egos who dance, and double as illustrated underlings.

The operetta has little bite. But Ria Jones's Josephine shines, plumply swooping and neatly punctuating her histrionics.

Summer Share follows. Jules Renard's play *Le Pain de Ménage* is transposed to Long Island today and focuses on two supposedly platonic friends who get drunk on holiday and feel sexually tempted, yet haunted by their spouses. Though regularly slushy, the show has catchy tunes. Monica (Jones reincarnated) and Sam (Mark Adams) are endearingly playful, crooning like pop stars into the neck of a whisky bottle.

KATE BASSETT



Bedroom farce: Roderick Kennedy as Bottom and Lillian Watson as Tytiana in ENO's unlovable, brash staging of a musically superb *Dream*

Sublime and ridiculous

OPERA: A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Coliseum

There is a whiff of encouragement from round the corner in St Martin's Lane: the Coliseum, too, lost its audience four years ago for a variety of reasons, but it has won it back. The fact that tickets cost half those at the Garden is not insignificant: those wanting their fix know where to go. And while the ENO autumn programme may be revival-rich, it is rich in revivals that people want to see — Massenet's autumnal *Don Quixote*, Janáček's vernal *Vixen*, Miller's Mafia *Rigoletto* — and there was a full and

appreciative house for Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* on Wednesday. As fixes go, it was a pretty good one, at least at one level. There are few conductors who know more about Britten than Stuart Bedford: this was as beautiful a reading of the score as I have heard. From those ominous opening bars onwards, the playing was simply superb, revealing many a felicity sometimes overlooked — the woodwind writing under Helena's second-act solo for one — and catching each shifting mood precisely,

in particular the yearning sensuousness. It sounded like a different orchestra from the one that staggered through *Traviata* the week before. And there is some real "class" singing, led by Lillian Watson's glittering Tytiana and Jean Rigby's sumptuous Hippolyta. There was great interest in the house debut of David Daniels — he of Glyndebourne's *Theodora* — as Oberon. Maybe the role lies a little low for a counter-tenor who sounds happier the higher he goes, but his coppers tone with its sweet vibrato

gave as much pleasure as his intense musicianship. He appeared to take little part in Robert Carsen's production, all too faithfully revived by Carlos Wagner, for which I cannot blame him: I tried desperately hard to see what it is that so many find to admire in this staging, and failed. Reducing Shakespeare and Britten to bedroom farce seems a dubious compliment to pay to either, and too many of the other singers are submerged in its acres of witless chic. Having won audiences back, ENO must give them something better than this.

RODNEY MILNES

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

Richard Cork concludes his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent Mysteries of Ancient China show



FIGURE OF A DANCER

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Try a little bit of this exam

Earlier this week the news broke that a student has been able to get his A-level grade changed by asking that the marks for his modules be apportioned differently. Surely that should set alarm bells ringing even more urgently about the concept of modular A levels?

For the first time this year, about one fifth of all A-level results depended on exams sat in bite-sized chunks during a two-year period. Vivian Anthony, secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, recently wrote in defence of modular A levels in a letter to *The Times*. "Whereas able candidates," he wrote, "will do well whatever the system of examining, lower-ability candidates have benefited significantly from the introduction of modular schemes." If that does not mean modular A levels are easier, then what does it mean?

One English department I know has resisted the modular option. It teaches the set texts and critical skills for two years in the traditional way. It shares the same syllabus as the "modulars" but candidates take all their end-of-module tests in one session at the end of the course. The department does this for

Modular A levels are devaluing our education system, says Susan Elkin

educational reasons. The school curriculum is fragmented enough without splitting it up any further, members of the department believe. How can you make links and learn to draw connections if you do your poetry as a separate entity from your prose?

If you are working on, say, Keats and Jane Austen, it makes sense to cross-refer. They were contemporaries. What else do they have in common? How do they differ? Why?

How long can those English teachers keep it up? The "grade war", in which all schools are now embroiled, is ruthless. No school can afford to do anything which might "cost" even one grade in a single subject. League tables dominate everything. If modular candidates get higher grades—as they do—then that is the route they will soon have to take. This is about survival, not education. As it is, the teachers

are discussing the possibility of re-entering one candidate whose overall grade fell short of expectations: not for the whole exam, as would formerly have been necessary, but selectively. Examinees need only retake the papers they could not pass.

The A level was conceived after the Second World War to stretch the academic elite: about 10 per cent of the population. It was never meant to be an all-purpose 18+ test for nearly half the age range. Of course we have had to "adjust" the standards. Otherwise nearly all the current entrants would fail.

There is a political basis to all this. First you ensure that vast numbers of 16 to 18-year-olds are safely in schools and colleges getting good passes in A level. Going modular is just one means of doing that. Then you put at least a third of the 18+ age group into "higher" education. Result? The stark reality of youth unemployment is effectively masked.

Of course I am glad for any 18-year-old who has achieved good A-level results and is about to proceed to university. But I cannot pretend to believe that the wider access to A-level passes afforded by modularity is good news. It is not even honest.



Delighted pupils and their head teacher Steven Andrew from Sandringham School, St Albans, rewarded by Gillian Shephard

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Top schools assemble for Ofsted Oscars

David Charter on award-winning schools in the eastern counties

A buzz went around Flitwick Lower School hall. The ministerial car had been spotted. "Mrs Shephard is here!" announced David Wynford-Jones, head teacher at Flitwick, recently identified as one of Bedfordshire's top primary schools.

Youngsters from 16 of the most successful schools in the eastern counties were soon flocking round for photographs with the Education and Employment Secretary.

They had assembled at the 320-pupil primary school to display highlights of the work which helped their schools to win the ultimate accolade. Their reward for attending one of the 200 schools deemed outstanding, excellent or "good and improving" nationally by Ofsted, the inspection agency, was to be lauded by Gillian Shephard in her first appearance at a regional celebratory reception.

"Not many days pass without some education story on the front of newspapers," Mrs Shephard told the successful children, head teachers and governors.

"You will find the bad stories about education by far outnumber the good stories."

However, this was a good news day, she said. Her personal congratulations went out to all those present and her enthusiastic interest in each school's display undeniably helped create a feel-good factor in Flitwick.

It was not sensational, there was no great fanfare or champagne toast, but it was a public demonstration that not only negative messages come out of Ofsted.

Many teachers feel the inspection agency, via its mouthpiece and chief inspector Chris Woodhead, is responsible for at least some of the "bad stories" to which Mrs Shephard alluded. But it was Mr Woodhead's own idea to honour the very best schools annually identified by his agents. Throughout the year ministers have held similar ceremonies to deliver Ofsted "Oscars".

The three "outstanding" secondary schools at the eastern counties reception comprised two grant-maintained grammar and one county council comprehensive. There were six excellent primary schools and seven "good and improving" secondaries.

The outstanding selectives, Chelmsford County High School for Girls and Westcliff High School for Boys, both in Essex, both always prominent in examination tables, were no strangers to accolades. Neither was Presdales in Ware, Hertfordshire, the third outstanding school in the region, an oversubscribed all-girls comprehensive listed in *The Sunday Times State Schools Book of top schools*.

It is the less well-known primary and comprehensive schools which benefit most from their place on the chief inspector's pedestal.

Michael Stothard, head teacher for the past 24 years at John F. Kennedy Roman

Catholic School in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, agreed that recognition was important but quibbled with the "good and improving" terminology. Ofsted-speak often seems unflatteringly low-key even when meant to praise.

"If you have 200 schools out of 4,000 selected for recognition, it should be possible to find a phrase people would respond to more warmly," he says. "To be 'outstanding' you have virtually got to be selective. I don't see any harm in using a word like excellent if the school is excellent in all aspects except for having a comprehensive intake."

He adds: "It is good that the Secretary of State is present personally. We are a pretty beleaguered profession when it comes to press and publicity and so it is encouraging that Gillian Shephard is prepared to give up an afternoon to come along and say 'well done' to schools."

Students from Sandringham School in St Albans, Hertfordshire, had little doubt that the ministerial praise, and the occasion, were welcome. Their school, created from two failing schools in 1988, has improved its examination performance every year since then and its display impressively stated its commitment to corporate ideals. The school's mission statement is "Everybody can be somebody".

Andrew Churchyard, 16, who attended the award ceremony, says: "It was interesting to see how these occasions work. I have not been to anything businesslike like this before. I like to pick up tips from speeches because in the future, who knows, I might have to speak in public."

And Ruth Rose, also 15, says: "I think that recognition is important because you constantly hear in the news that such-and-such a school is bad."

Steven Andrews, their head teacher, is also positive about the experience.

"There is precious little public praise for teachers, unfortunately. It is always good to have somebody saying you are doing really well but it does not produce in us a sense we have got to where we are going, or that we can rest on our laurels. We are a school committed to constant improvement."

Its nine-point "learning mission", reprinted in all pupils' homework diaries, includes the promise "we will not judge your achievements against some agreed average but will measure it against your previous best". It seemed appropriate that the school was being recognised for exactly this.

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For further details, please contact Mr M J Higgins, Director of Personnel, University of Sunderland, Langham Tower, Ryhope Road, Sunderland SR2 7EE. Tel: 0191 515 2061. Closing date: 8.10.96.

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The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors on the retirement of the present Bursar in April 1997.

Details of the post may be obtained from:- The Clerk to the Governors, Wells Cathedral School, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2SX.

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For application form (Ref: 48/96) please contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XD. Tel: 0141-553 4133. (If possible, please phone outwith office hours as a Voice Mail Service is in operation). Applications Closing Date: 4th October 1996.

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Requests for further particulars, which should be obtained before application is made, should be addressed to the Senior Tutor's Secretary, St Anne's College, Oxford OX2 0HS. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope. The closing date for applications is 1 November 1996.

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Full particulars must be obtained by writing to the Master's Secretary, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB2 3TA, or by fax 01223 332936. Telephone enquiries will not be taken. Further details are also available on <http://www.gonville.ac.uk>. Completed applications must be received by Tuesday, 26th November 1996.

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Salary will be within the Grade 6 range for academic related staff in universities (current minimum £31,999 p.a. under review). The initial salary will be in excess of the minimum reflecting the seniority of the appointment. The post will be based at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. For access details for disabled applicants please contact Dee Cox on Milton Keynes (01908) 653213.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Mr D J Clack, Secretary, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 653994 (24 hour voice mail) or (01908) 653213.

Closing date for applications: 11 October.



Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape.

Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Peter Barrar at Manchester Business School on 0161-275 6476 or by e-mail to PBarrar@fs2.mbs.ac.uk

An application form and further particulars are available from The Director of Personnel, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, tel: 0161-275 2028, fax: 0161-275 2221, e-mail: personnel@man.ac.uk, minicom (for the hearing impaired) 0161-275 7889 quoting reference number 454/96.

Closing date is Friday 4th October 1996.

Manchester Business School is committed to the University's Equal Opportunities Policy and promotes quality teaching and research. Women and members of black minority ethnic groups are presently under represented at this level at the School and applications from members of these groups are encouraged.

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MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

CRICKET

Kent's title challenge dismissed by Walsh

BY SIMON WILDE

BRISTOL (first day of four: Kent won toss; Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Kent)

NOW get out of that. Kent, bottom of the county championship for the first time this century last year, have trodden an implausible and romantic path in attempting to make amends by finishing top this summer, but they are rapidly running out of escape routes after a poor day's work at the Phoenix County Ground yesterday.

After taking the questionable decision to bat first, they were all out by mid-afternoon for 154 and, with the honourable exception of Trevor Ward, who batted skilfully for 3½ hours for 86, did not look like champions-in-waiting. Ironically, Gloucestershire did. Their bowling was disciplined and their fielding

without a few difficulties, before bad light ended play for the day, and McCague, Headley and Ealham will relish the prospect of continuing the bowling today.

Kent had batted only minutes before they must have had second thoughts about taking first innings. Walker falling to the last ball of Walsh's first over, leg-before to a full-pitched delivery. The last thing that they wanted was Walsh, the West Indies captain, on the ramp and, although Fleming and Ward coped well to keep him at bay for the rest of his opening spell, he wreaked havoc after lunch.

By then Kent were already in desperate straits, having fallen prey to the gentler pace of Alleyne and Symonds. Alleyne accounted for Fleming, who steered a ball tamely to Lynch at second slip, and Symonds, normally a purveyor of off spin but now dispensing tidy, medium-paced leg cutters, dispatched Hooper and Ulong in the same over. Ealham, driving at Smith, gave the thinnest of outside edges, which Russell plucked out of the sky to his right.

Kent lunched precariously on 94 for five, which soon became 101 for eight. Walsh, seeing the breach, immediately raised his game after the interval and, in the space of six balls, had claimed the scalps of Cowdrey, playing his first championship game for ten weeks, Marsh and Patel.

McCague then gamely added 49 with Ward, who had seen seven partners depart in 25 overs, in the highest partnership of the innings, and coped well enough to raise doubts about Ward's tactics in turning down singles in order to protect his partner. In the end, Ward perished looking to make hay against Alleyne.

The admirable Walsh finished with four for 50, making him the leading wicket-taker in the country with 81 victims. Gloucestershire have offered him another two-year contract and he is likely to accept, having yesterday discounted West Indies Cricket Board plans to place its leading players on year-round contracts. "I don't think they have got the money to implement it at the moment," he said.

sharp, Russell taking three outstanding catches.

It was Kent's lowest total of the season, possibly their most inept batting performance, as well, and, with four batting points squandered, they are now even more at the mercy of Gloucestershire, who need to claim only two batting points today to eliminate them from the title race.

That said, Kent are not without hope of winning this match because it is being staged on what can only be described as a sporting pitch. With Long bowled by a ball that kept low from one end and the tall McCague struck on the helmet by Walsh at the other, batting was more a matter of survival than comfort.

Windows and Trainer, the Gloucestershire openers, negotiated 12 overs before tea and four balls afterwards, not



Mullally, of Leicestershire, wins his appeal for the wicket of Shah, leg-before in the match against Middlesex yesterday. Report, page 44

Lancashire earn credit for national service

BY IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 233 for seven wickets against Lancashire)

SO LANCASHIRE are having almost as much of a struggle to find a coach as Manchester City are in attracting a manager. At least the cricket club cannot be charged with not looking to the future. Without Mike Watkinson, who is in Hong Kong, and Michael Atherton who, in effect, is now employed by the England selectors, John Crawley was captain for the first time — and with some success.

Only Burns made a score of note for Warwickshire, who remain, for the time being, county champions. Whoever Crawley turned to came up with a wicket, which suggested that he had either an alchemist's touch or the luck that every captain needs. It was not difficult to tell from the various modes of dismissal just why Warwickshire are offering Speak, the Lancashire batsman, the chance to join them.

Speak, 29, has been told by Lancashire that he can leave if he wishes to do so. It is a time for urgent decision-making at Old Trafford, where the pitches have lost some pace and will be attended to during the winter. Nothing is more im-

portant, though, than the appointment of a prominent individual as coach. The committee, which met on Wednesday night, is determined to bring in somebody of international repute.

Having been spurned by Graham Gooch and Dennis Lillee, the committee could well look towards South Africa. Inquiries before the season about Jimmy Cook, once a prolific opening batsman, came to nothing, and the latest name to be mooted is Clive Rice, who runs the cricket academy. He would not come cheap.

As for the captaincy, Watkinson, who is representing England in the Hong Kong sixes, is mulling over

whether he wants to continue. Wasim Akram, who will return next summer, could become vice-captain in place of Atherton.

At the members' forum, which the club has agreed to stage on October 1, there will inevitably be concerns raised over the fact that Atherton will be allowed to rest during some championship matches next year, just as he was yesterday. To which Bob Bennett, the Lancashire chairman, will reply that it is the duty of a county to help England's cause.

Assuming that Atherton plays regularly for England next summer, he will, anyway, miss six championship matches. This year he has

played in eight. Some members will, understandably, want to know how Lancashire can make any headway in what, even at a club which has had so much success in the one-day game, remains the pre-eminent competition.

Atherton will take a benefit next year. Although, as with most prominent cricketers, this will be a nationwide affair, his absences will hardly assist fundraising at Old Trafford. He clearly needs periods of recuperation, yet Lancashire have need of him. It is greatly to their credit, considering that they are languishing near the foot of the championship table, that they are putting country before club.

Doleful Durham cut down by DeFreitas

BY PAT GIBSON

DERBY (first day of four: Durham won toss; Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are six runs behind Durham)

DERBYSHIRE may no longer be in contention for the Britannic Assurance county championship, but there is still the little matter of prize-money to play for. They can increase their earnings from £9,000 to £30,000 by climbing from fifth place to second, and that was all the incentive they needed

yesterday to show hapless Durham no mercy.

A delayed start and five stoppages for either rain or bad light took 29 overs from an autumnal day, yet Derbyshire still have every reason to believe that they can beat the weather after bowling out Durham for 142 and then scoring 136 for two in reply from only 27 overs.

Nothing illustrated the difference in the fortunes of these two sides than the poignant sight of John Morris gazing wistfully across the ground where he learnt his cricket and

wondering whether he would ever be able to recapture the form that brought him more than the 14,000 runs in 12 years with Derbyshire and another 3,700 in his first two seasons at Durham.

He was the first of five victims yesterday for Phillip DeFreitas, whose control of seam and swing in the howling easterly wind which bent the poplar trees that are supposed to protect two sides of the ground was altogether too much for Durham.

Morris had made five when he edged DeFreitas to second

slip, which means that he has now scored 70 in his past 11 championship innings and only 410, at an average of 15, all season. "I have just got to forget this year and come back and score a stack of runs next season," he said.

It is to be hoped that the rest of the Durham side share his optimism. Without Sherwin Campbell, their discarded overseas player who is already on his way home, and Darren Blenkinsop, who has been suspended over an alleged incident in which two club cars were damaged, they looked as

though they could hardly wait for the season to end, especially when Chris Adams, with 77 off 56 balls, including 13 fours and a six, and Dean Jones were adding 89 in 15 overs for the third Derbyshire wicket.

Shane Warne, the leg-spin bowler, has only a 50-50 chance of being fit for Australia's tour to India next month, according to John Scholes, the Victoria coach. Warne, who is recovering from surgery to a finger on his right hand, has been restricted to bowling medium-pace in pre-season practice sessions.

Laney caps outstanding season

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

JASON LANEY, whose emergence has been a consoling factor in a disappointing campaign for Hampshire, was awarded his county cap yesterday and celebrated by scoring an unbeaten 76 at Southampton, where Hampshire reached 213 for two against Nottinghamshire.

Laney, who has scored more than a thousand runs in his first full season, added 147 for the first wicket with Giles White, which was only the county's second century opening stand of the season. Paul Franks, the Nottinghamshire newcomer, dismissed White for 73 and Paul Whitaker without scoring, before Laney settled in with Robin Smith, his eyes set on his third century in successive matches.

Michael Vaughan, the Yorkshire opening batsman, will need only five more runs to complete his third century of the summer when the game with Northamptonshire resumes. Yorkshire, sixth in the table, had reached 213 for three from 64 overs when the weather closed in.

Vaughan, with an England A tour to Australia to look forward to, has so far hit a six and 12 fours and shared an opening stand of 112 in 29 overs with Martyn Moxon. When 22, Vaughan completed his thousand for the season.

Andrew Caddick, with five for 55 in 14 overs, was mainly responsible for Sussex being dismissed for 141 at Hove, where Somerset have reached 45 for one in reply.

The match began in unpromising fashion for Caddick, the England fast bowler, who was struck for four early boundaries by Neil Lenham; but, once the opening batsman had fallen to a rash pull to square leg, Caddick and Shane Lee (four for 52) assumed control, delayed only by an eighth-wicket partnership of 63 in 18 overs between Peter Moores and Danny Law.

Hashan Tillekeratne hit his fifth Test century but his first on home soil as Sri Lanka moved into a strong position in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Colombo. His 100 not out has occupied 335 minutes and guided Sri Lanka to 317 for seven, a lead of 176.

Gooch does the foundation work

BY JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss; Essex have scored 148 for one wicket against Glamorgan)

IT WAS a reassuring and familiar scene for the few Essex faithful who turned out on a windswept, rainy day: Graham Gooch building an innings, Nasser Hussain in full flight, the two of them in an unfinished stand of 115 from 29 overs, both in the sixties when bad light and rain brought the day's play to an early end after only 40 overs had been bowled.

You had to feel sorry for Glamorgan. It was a bad toss to lose. Although some moisture from the heavy morning rain, which cost 37

overs at the start, might have aided early movement, there were few signs of this as Gooch settled in. The conditions were numbing to the fingers, the ball soon became damp. Gooch was intent on a big score. After Grayson had been caught behind for 12, Hussain was soon into his stride and the bowlers were on a hiding to nothing.

Gooch must have been close to being leg-before from the first ball bowled by the promising Parkin, who has a high, easy action. It brought a loud shout from Glamorgan and a long look from umpire Julian. Otherwise, the old boy looked in full command.

Robert Croft's off spin commanded respect from Gooch and

Hussain. The same could not be said of poor David Hemp's medium pacers. He went for 28 off two overs in which he bowled five no-balls. The bulk of Hussain's eight fours came from Hemp, whose early introduction, after bowling only 18 previous overs this season, was something of a mystery.

Hussain struck the ball with great authority through the off side, off both front foot and back. This has been a wonderful season for him. As for Gooch, with seven centuries and seven other scores above 50 to his credit this season, the last thing Essex will want is for him to be ruled out of the running next year by taking over as chairman of the England selectors.

Club company

Rugby league: Super League clubs yesterday unveiled a new company, Rugby League (Europe) Limited, which will look after their interests in future — but stressed that they are not breaking away from the Rugby Football League.

Cycling: Alex Zülle, the Swiss rider waiting in the wings to take over the mantle of Tony Rominger, his compatriot who is now nearing retirement, finished third in the twelfth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday to increase his overall lead. The 188-kilometre stage ended in a mountain-top finish at Alto Naranco and was won by Daniele Nardello, of Italy, who, at one time with three others, had almost six minutes' advantage over the main pack.

Rugby union: Jason John, a former Great Britain sprinter, will make his debut for Moseley in the Courage Clubs Championship second division against Nottingham at The Reddings tomorrow. Moseley have dropped Andy Houston, the captain, Carl Hall, Craig Quick and Stuart Langley.

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Rugby league: Super League clubs yesterday unveiled a new company, Rugby League (Europe) Limited, which will look after their interests in future — but stressed that they are not breaking away from the Rugby Football League.

Cycling: Alex Zülle, the Swiss rider waiting in the wings to take over the mantle of Tony Rominger, his compatriot who is now nearing retirement, finished third in the twelfth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday to increase his overall lead. The 188-kilometre stage ended in a mountain-top finish at Alto Naranco and was won by Daniele Nardello, of Italy, who, at one time with three others, had almost six minutes' advantage over the main pack.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Glamorgan

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss; Essex have scored 148 for one wicket against Glamorgan)

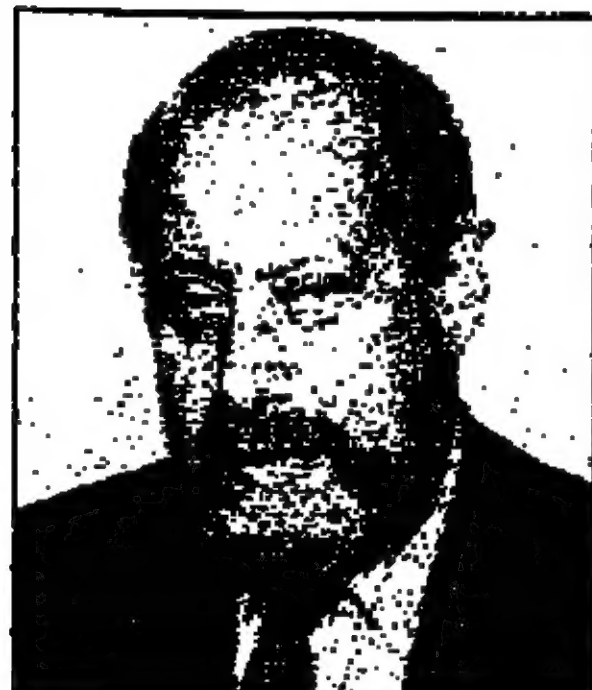
ESSEX: First Innings
G A Gooch not out 62
A P Grayson c Shaw b Watkin 12
N Hussain not out 10
Extras (b 4, nb 10) 0
Total (1 wk, 40.2 overs) 148

S G Lowe, M C J Pritchard, R J Leach, R J Rolfe, M C J Pritchard, S J W Andrew and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33; 2-103; 3-103; 4-103; 5-103; 6-103; 7-103; 8-103; 9-103; 10-103; 11-103; 12-103; 13-103; 14-103; 15-103; 16-103; 17-103; 18-103; 19-103; 20-103; 21-103; 22-103; 23-103; 24-103; 25-103; 26-103; 27-103; 28-103; 29-103; 30-103; 31-103; 32-103; 33-103; 34-103; 35-103; 36-103; 37-103; 38-103; 39-103; 40-103; 41-103; 42-103; 43-103; 44-103; 45-103; 46-103; 47-103; 48-103; 49-103; 50-103; 51-103; 52-103; 53-103; 54-103; 55-103; 56-103; 57-103; 58-103; 59-103; 60-103; 61-103; 62-103; 63-103; 64-103; 65-103; 66-103; 67-103; 68-103; 69-103; 70-103; 71-103; 72-103; 73-103; 74-103; 75-103; 76-103; 77-103; 78-103; 79-103; 80-103; 81-103; 82-103; 83-103; 84-103; 85-103; 86-103; 87-103; 88-103; 89-103; 90-103; 91-103; 92-103; 93-103; 94-103; 95-103; 96-103; 97-103; 98-103; 99-103; 100-103; 101-103; 102-103; 103-103; 104-103; 105-103; 106-103; 107-103; 108-103; 109-103; 110-103; 111-103; 112-103; 113-103; 114-103; 115-103; 116-103; 117-103; 118-103; 119-103; 120-103; 121-103; 122-103; 123-103; 124-103; 125-103; 126-103; 127-103; 128-103; 129-103; 130-103; 131-103; 132-103; 133-103; 134-103; 135-103; 136-103; 137-103; 138-103; 139-103; 140-103; 141-103; 142-103; 143-103; 144-103; 145-103; 146-103; 147-103; 148-103; 149-103; 150-103; 151-103; 152-103; 153-103; 154-103; 155-103; 156-103; 157-103; 158-103; 159-103; 160-103; 161-103; 162-103; 163-103; 164-103; 165-103; 166-103; 167-103; 168-103; 169-103; 170-103; 171-103; 172-103; 173-103; 174-103; 175-103; 176-103; 177-103; 178-103; 179-103; 180-103; 181-103; 182-103; 183-103; 184-103; 185-103; 186-103; 187-103; 188-103; 189-103; 190-103; 191-103; 192-103; 193-103; 194-103; 195-103; 196-103; 197-103; 198-103; 199-103; 200-103; 201-103; 202-103; 203-103; 204-103; 205-103; 206-103; 207-103; 208-103; 209-103; 210-103; 211-103; 212-103; 213-103; 214-103; 215-103; 216-103; 217-103; 218-103; 219-103; 220-103; 221-103; 222-103; 223-103; 224-103; 225-103; 226-103; 227-103; 228-103; 229-103; 230-103; 231-103; 232-103; 233-103; 234-103; 235-103; 236-103; 237-103; 238-103; 239-103; 240-103; 241-103; 242-103; 243-103; 244-103; 245-103; 246-103; 247-103; 248-103; 249-103; 250-103; 251-103; 252-103; 253-103; 254-103; 255-103; 256-103; 257-103; 258-103; 259-103; 260-103; 261-103; 262-103; 263-103; 264-103; 265-103; 266-103; 267-103; 268-103; 269-103; 270-103; 271-103; 272-103; 273-103; 274-103; 275-103; 276-103; 277-103; 278-103; 279-103; 280-103; 281-103; 282-103; 283-103; 284-103; 285-103; 286-103; 287-103; 288-103; 289-103; 290-103; 291-103; 292-103; 293-103; 294-103; 295-103; 296-103; 297-103; 298-103; 299-103; 300-103; 301-103; 302-103; 303-103; 304-103; 305-103; 306-103; 307-103; 308-103; 309-103; 310-103; 311-103; 312-103; 313-103; 314-103; 315-103; 316-103; 317-103; 318-103; 319-103; 320-103; 321-103; 322-103; 323-103; 324-103; 325-103; 326-103; 327-103; 328-103; 329-103; 330-103; 331-103; 332-103; 333-103; 334-103; 335-103; 336-103; 337-103; 338-103; 339-103; 340-103; 341-103; 342-103; 343-103; 344-103; 345-103; 346-103; 347-103; 348-103; 349-103; 350-103; 351-103; 352-103; 353-103; 354-103; 355-103; 356-103; 357-103; 358-103; 359-103; 360-103; 361-103; 362-103; 363-103; 364-103; 365-103; 366-103; 367-103; 368-103; 369-103; 370-103; 371-103; 372-103; 373-103; 374-103; 375-103; 376-103; 377-103; 378-103; 379-103; 380-103; 381-103; 382-103; 383-103; 384-103; 385-103; 386-103; 387-103; 388-103; 389-103; 390-103; 391-103; 392-103; 393-103; 394-103; 395-103; 396-103; 397-103; 398-103; 399-103; 400-103; 401-103; 402-103; 403-103; 404-103; 405-103; 406-103; 407-103; 408-103; 409-103; 410-103; 411-103; 412-103; 413-103; 414-103; 415-103; 416-103; 417-103; 418-103; 419-103; 420-103; 421-103; 422-103; 423-103; 424-103; 425-103; 426-103; 427-103; 428-103; 429-103; 430-103; 431-103; 432-103; 433-103; 434-103; 435-103; 436-103; 437-103; 438-103; 439-103; 440-103; 441-103; 442-103; 443-103; 444-103; 445-103; 446-103; 447-103; 448-103; 449-103; 450-103; 451-103; 452-103; 453-103; 454-103; 455-103; 456-103; 457-103; 458-103; 459-103; 460-103; 461-103; 462-103; 463-103; 464-103; 465-103; 466-103; 467-103; 468-103; 469-103; 4

Masterminding big push for glory

FREUD ON FRIDAY



So I sat back in the black leather chair. Magnusson looked me in the eye and said: "Your specialist subject is the world bobsleigh push-start championship 1994-1996. You have two minutes starting ... now, what do the letters FMBS stand for?"

Fédération Montégaque Bobsleigh et Skeleton.

Correct. Name the bestselling book by Great Britain's director of coaching and performance?

Flanagan's Run by Tom McNab.

Correct. What is the length of the timed run?

40 metres.

Correct. What is the gradient of the course?

There is no gradient at the start, -4.07% at the finish.

Correct. What is the weight of the four-man bobsleigh?

310 kilograms.

Correct. What medals did the British squad win in the championship of 1995?

Silver in the four-man, bronze in the two-man.

Correct. Who was Monaco's No 1 driver in each of the championships?

Prince Albert of Monaco.

Correct. Name the winning team in the 1996 championship.

United States of America.

Correct. How many countries competed in 1996?

25.

Correct. Which domestic appliance company sponsors the British team?

Zanussi.

Correct. Which team is led by a Super Bowl running back?

Puerto Rico.

Correct. Where is the competition held?

On the harbour at Monte Carlo.

Correct. What is the price of a taxi from the harbour to Loews Hotel?

Could you repeat that question?



Monte Carlo or bust: the Holland team takes to the rails at the world bobsleigh push-start championship in Monaco. Photograph: Martin Beddall

What is the price of a taxi ... stop the clock. Why are you crying?

I paid the taxi.

The four-man bobsleigh competition is the most important in the push championship: each team is allowed three runs, the two best times count for medals. Great Britain is well fancied — the team consists of Mark Tout, driver; Courtney Rumbolt, Dean Ward and Lenny Paul, squad captain. Speed and weight are important; crews should ideally be cohesive, tight-hipped, explosive.

There is a five metre start area in which the team positions itself for take-off: two men on the port side, one starboard, one at the back. They take deep breaths, clasp each others' hands to manifest togetherness and optimism, rise to their toes, lower themselves to the push position and, at a word of command, they grip the sleigh and run like hell.

Forty metres from the start

line is a red and white barrier suspended 1½ metres above the bobs. They are pushed. This barrier must not be disturbed. In the best of all worlds, all four men will jump into the sleigh at the last moment and the electronic timer flashes up the result instantly: a man with a flag waves red or white

"Voici le bob, voilà les boos." I tell a man sitting next to me. He looks blank. He is Bulgarian. The wise men in command of the Britain team decided that the morning push is a waste of time and effort; our men will come fresh and eager to the afternoon pushes ... so we all have lunch.

The day is brilliant.

"They take up their positions, rise, dip, push, race and jump on board"

to denote false or clear pushes. The sleigh is then pushed back to the start where the next team gathers for its brief moment of glory.

The terraces, what the French call *les tribunes*, hold 250 spectators, and about that number again watch and cheer from the promenade. Behind *les tribunes* is an upmarket swimming pool where toplessness is *de rigueur*.

temperature in the middle 80s, hardly any wind. With the exception of Holland and Hungary, every country beats six seconds; United States are the fastest with 5.49sec. The commentator, who speaks only French, says something nice about every push, regardless of the time taken. "Une très bonne opération" and "Vraiment excellent".

With 5.49sec to beat, Great

Britain come to the start line, manifest a four-handed clasp, take up positions, rise, dip, push, race and jump on board. The timer shows 5.49sec, and those of us with Union Jacks wave them about our heads. Then we notice that the barrier above the finish line is swinging, broken by the shoulder of our No 3 man, who did not lower himself sufficiently quickly.

Having had no morning run, the team is eliminated. "Defeated with honour; a victory in our hearts if not in the book," McNab said.

"There is still the two-man competition," I tell him. McNab looks sick. Britain sort of misunderstood the entry procedure. The Lithuanians got it right and the Norwegians, Czechs, Japanese and Ukrainians — but we failed to complete the right form.

"Was it the foreign language that defeated us?"

No, it was in English. In the four-man final, Uni-

ted States II were 0.07sec faster than United States I with the Czechs third. Barring accidents, like derailment, teams show staggering consistency in their times; the dependable Swiss achieved three pushes within .04sec.

At the awards dinner that night, His Serene Highness (the local translator pronounces the "g" in Highness) Prince Albert only got two out of ten for microphone technique. Baron de Coubertin maintained: being there is what matters. I was there.

One of the sponsors asked if I thought that the sport would catch on in England. I thought that the event lacked that element of danger which brings people to the piste. I told him that our weather was against it; on reflection, if we had four Linford Christies we could conquer the world of *Le Push* — an esoteric sport bound by the tightest of rules.

CLEMENT FREUD

TENNIS: DAVIS CUP PROMOTION QUEST MARKS END OF ERA AT WIMBLEDON

Rusedski to open Britain's challenge

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THE closest that Great Britain is likely to get to the Davis Cup for the foreseeable future at least was yesterday when the draw was made at Wimbledon for Britain's Euro-African zone, group-two tie against Egypt.

Using the silver trophy as a makeshift hat, Greg Rusedski's name was drawn first and he will open the five-match series today, against Tamer El Sawy.

The tie will mark the end of an era for Wimbledon. Played on No 1 Court, it will be the last competitive fixture held there before the old stadium is pulled down and the new, 11,000-seat No 1 Court is opened in time for the 1997 All-England championships.

Nobody can escape the sense of history surrounding the weekend's matches, nor the importance of the result. If Britain win, they will gain promotion to Euro-African zone group one, just one step away from the world group and a chance to play for the trophy itself.

The Britain team, captained by David Lloyd, is in good spirits. Tim Henman has recovered from the groin strain that forced him to pull out of the Bournemouth International last week and, after ten days' rest, feels fully fit again.

On Sunday he picked up a racket for the first time since the US Open, on Monday he had a full practice session.

On paper, Britain have a relatively easy task ahead of them. El Sawy is Egypt's top player, ranked No 174 in the world — 103 places behind Rusedski and 141 behind Henman, who will play Amr Ghoneim, Egypt's only other player with a world ranking, at No 522, in the second match today.

However, El Sawy is not ready to throw in the towel. For the past seven years he has carried the burden of Egypt's hopes in the Davis Cup and these days regards it less as a

form of pressure and more as a challenge. "The Davis Cup feeling never goes," he said. "On paper, it is tough, but we wouldn't be here if we didn't think we had a chance."

Those chances may well be scuppered by the Wimbledon weather. With rain forecast for the next few days, the matches could well back up, which would leave El Sawy and Ghoneim, the only two nominated to play from the four-man Egypt team, with a lot of tennis to play in a very short period of time.

SCHEDULE: Today (11am start) G Rusedski v T El Sawy; T Henman v A Ghoneim; Tomorrow (2.45pm start) H Broad and M Petchey v B Sawy and Ghoneim; Sunday (11am start) Henman v B Sawy; Rusedski v Ghoneim.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

HETAIRISM

(b) Open concubinage. In anthropology, applied by Sir J. Lubbock to a supposed primitive form of the sexual relations, communal marriage in a tribe. From the Greek *hetaira* a tart *hetairizein* to be a courtesan. "The primitive condition of man socially was one of pure hetairism, or, as we may for convenience call it, communal marriage where every man and woman were equally married to one another."

JHEEL

(c) Or *jhil*, a pool or lagoon (in India) often of vast extent, left after an inundation. From the Hindi *jhil*. "The pigs come out of their own accord, to take the air or wallow in some neighbouring jheel."

HALCYON

(a) Calm or tranquil. An incorrect form of *halcyon*, probably influenced by the Latin *alcedo* a kingfisher. "The Halcyons or Halcyons were said, I think, to be begot of Lucifer."

KHAN

(a) In the East a building (unfurnished) for the accommodation of travellers, a caravanserai. From the Arabic *khan* an inn. "The badly-cooked, indigestible stuff which most Eastern travellers eat at the Khans."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1, Rd8+! Qx8; 2, Bxb7+ and, unless Black jetsons his queen, he will be mated, eg, 2... Kc7; 3, Qx5+ Kd7; 4, Bxb+ Ke7; 5, Qx5+.

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 11. Heads you win

Adam who works at

Ruddles Brewery in Retland

decided to take a holiday in

the Highlands of Scotland to

small the heather rather than

the hops for a change.

He loved the scenery but

he had a little trouble with

the "heavy" preferring the

familiar taste of Ruddles

County which is so accessible

in most of Britain but

somewhat harder to find in

the mountains of Scotland.

After 10 days over the beauty

of the scenery began to pall

and the memory of his beloved

Ruddles (so near yet so far

away) started to get to him.

To take his mind off things

and for want of something

better to do he decided to

have his hair cut.

He went in to the only

barber shop for miles around

to find the two resident

barbers. Adam noticed

immediately that the one

called Hamish had an

appealing haircut, while the

other who was known as

"Brevthead" had a nightmarish

mop of hair.

Being a shrewd Sassanach

for all his quiet ways, Adam

knew his choice of barber was

critical.

However he chose correctly

and left with a smart trim.

Who did Adam choose to

cut his hair and why?



As Brevthead — on the assumption that Hamish and Brevthead cut each others hair, Brevthead obviously has some talent with Hamish does not.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championships

10.30, second day of four 104 overs minimum

DERBY: Derbyshire v Durham

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Glamorgan

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent

SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Middlesex

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire

THE OVAL: Surrey v Worcestershire

HOVE: Sussex v Somerset

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Lancashire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

First division: Ipswich v Charlton (7.45)

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Vauxhall GM v Northwich

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division (7.45): St Patrick's Athletic v Sligo; Shelbourne v University College Dublin

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE SHIELD COMPETITION (7.45): Northern section: Drogheda v St Francis, Southern section: Waterford v Urmick

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Horse Trials

GOLF: Solheim Cup (St Pierre, Choptaw) Loch Lomond World Invitational (Glasgow)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League (7.30): Oxford v Eastbourne; Peterborough v Swindon; Conference League: Peterborough v Sheffield (7.0); Challenge: Phil Bishop-Lokation Pals Trophy (Arens, Essex, 8.0)

TENNIS: Davis Cup: Euro-African zone: Group Three: Great Britain v Egypt (Wimbledon). LTA satellite tournament (Birkenhead)

RADIO CHOICE

Journey that made history

Witnessing History. Radio 4, 10.00am.

The National Theatre's 1971 production of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* at the Old Vic justifies its place in this series of about momentous occasions. Though still suffering from the effects of cancer therapy, Laurence Olivier pushed himself up to and sometimes beyond the limit as James Tyrone, veteran actor and head of a tormented family. O'Neill created him from memories of his own father. Benedict Nightingale, writing in *New Statesman* about Tyrone's cry of despair over his morphine-addicted wife, said the sight was so painful that he had to look away. It proved to be Olivier's last important role in the theatre, and the production itself helped to staunch the National's financial haemorrhage. John Florence talks to some of those who witnessed theatre history being made.

Friday Night is Music Night. Radio 2, 7.30pm.

Leonard Pearcey's cue for his interval feature about what opportunities exist for young British instrumentalists to make the grade is provided by Sheema White, the tenor horn player. She won Radio 2's 1996 Young Musician competition. If she blows as impressively tonight as she did on her night of glory, we are in for a treat. Pearcey charts the judging panel in the Radio 2 contest. Tonight he presents snippets from recordings made by four young orchestras, and tells us things we should have known, but probably did not, about the Young Concert Artists Trust.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Vanson 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle. Two hours of honoree drums and base 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Anne Nightingale 8.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Martin Kelner, incl 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thresher 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Mail about Musicals. Paul Nicholas hosts the quiz for amateur musical associations 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. See Choice 8.45 Every Living Thing 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 George Melly 12.05am Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, incl 6.45 Wake Up to Money 6.50 The President Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Brian Hayes incl 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mail, incl 12.55pm Moneycheck, with Philip Lamb 2.05 Ruscoo on Five 4.05 Solheim Cup Golf. Tony Adams presents coverage from the St Pierre course, Choptaw 7.00 News Extra, with David McNeil 7.30 Parkinson on Sport 8.30 Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey Football Commentary on a Division One game plus golf 10.05 Paper Talk, with David Maynard and Brian Alexander 11.00 Night Extra, with David McNeil 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dailly

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Ches- tolm 1.00pm Anna Redburn 3.30 (FM) (100) R. Peter Deley 7.00 Radio 100 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dicks

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30 Europe Today 5.45 Folk Routes 6.30 Europe 6.45 Going Solo 6.50 Insider's Guide 7.15 World Today 7.30 Rock Salad 8.15 On the Shelf. Tender is the Night (15/20) 8.30 The Way of the Buddha 9.15 Music Review 9.45 Soundbyte 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science in Action 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Spotlight 6.30 News in German 7.30 Focus on Faith 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 People and Politics 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Spotlight 12.15 Insider's Guide 12.25 Rock Choice 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart Show

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Breakfast Show 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Antuanian (Trumpet Concerto) 3.00 James Croft 6.00 Classic Newswright 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Classic Showcase 8.00 Evening Concert, Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture, Op 49); Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor, Op 64) 10.00 Michael Maplin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Ruse 'n' Jones 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nick Hornby 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) (100) R. Peter Deley 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Andrew McGregor. Includes Brahms (Three Intermezzi, Op 117); Gershwin (Piano Concerto in F); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in G minor, BWV541); Britten (Cantata No 5: The Death of St Narcissus); Verdi (Overture: Carlo Nome); Bartok (Pagan Symphony)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Paul Gambaccini. Gershwin (Second Rhapsody); Loewe (Erkling); Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Introduced by Mark Rowlinson live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Stanford (Irish Rhapsody No 5 in G minor); Liszt (Transcendental Study No 4: Mephisto Waltz No 2, BWV541); Quarell in F, K707; Vorsek (Variations in B flat, Op 19)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy

1.00pm News. Chamber Music from Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Studdart. Playford (Indian Queen, Of Noble Race was Shikini); Simpson (Sonny Sweet Robin); Ravenscroft (New Oysters); Enon (Fortune My Fortune)

2.00 Preoccupations. Featuring the pianist Kathryn Stott talking about a subject which is close to her heart

2.05 Fauré (Nocturne in D flat, Op74); Kathryn Stott, piano

2.15 Music Restored. Presented by George Pratt (6)

3.00 Mining the Archive: Time Remembered. The Frank-Paul-Kirnbaur Trio have been one of the finest piano trios of the past 25 years.

These tapes from recordings in the early 1970s demonstrate the trio's ability to harness their individual styles into the ensemble. Includes Schubert (Nocturne D917); Schumann (Piano Trio in F, Op 80); Dvorák (Trio in F minor)

5.00 Music Machine, presented by Tommy Pearson. A look at why some composers choose words such as "ura-la-la", "shoo-bee-doo" and any others they care to invent

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Debussy (Dr Gradus ad Parnassum); Handel (I will sing unto the Lord Israel in Egypt)

6.30 Leeds International Piano Competition (with BBC2). Part one of the final with the first three pianists performing their concertos. Howard Goodall introduces the concert and is joined by Ian Burnside

9.00 Novellists. Louis de Bernieres reads from his work-in-progress, *Birds Without Wings*

9.20 Arthur Bliss (Cantata Quirel). Performed by the Delme Quartet and David Campbell, clarinet

10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker talks to the composer Colin Matthews about his recent work and the pianist Anthony de Mare performs an Anglo-American studio recital

Woodbines and lager: a critic confesses

A few weeks ago on *Mastermind* a nice elderly woman chose as her specialist subject the life and works of Geoffrey Studdart-Kennedy. It was one of those occasions when the viewer, hoping to chip in with a few well-answered, sinks back in defeat before even the words "starting... NOW" are enunciated. I made a mental note to write to *Mastermind*: could the more obscure specialist subjects be contextualised, please? Nobody has heard of Geoffrey Studdart-Kennedy except this woman. "What was his nickname in the trenches of the First World War?" asked Magnus. The woman smiled. "Woodbine Willie," she said affectionately. By the end of the round, it was possible to infer he was a war poet who inspired devotion, nothing more.

But now it turns out that at home in London, Ian Hislop, caddy Editor of *Private Eye* (and media star), was yelling out the answers right and left. Because in his absorbing and well-made *Cantebury Tales* last night on Channel 4, the handsome Studdart-Kennedy came to the fore, as a charismatic leader of Christian socialists waging crusades against social injustice after 1918. How did the Church of England cope with the First World War? It was a question worth asking, because the answer explains a lot of what has happened since. While its leaders at home urged the mass killing of Germans, at the front the chaplains revolted in every sense. "These things need not be," wrote one. And among these "radicalised" clergy, Woodbine Willie was so famous that I kept thinking of that woman from *Mastermind*, switching off the telly and saying: "Oh, everyone knows all this."

Last night's programme was a first of three, and left the story of the Church of England in the 20th century languishing around 1930,

when the populace was fed up with it again. It wasn't as dull as it sounds, incidentally, despite the footage of trench burials and cenotaphs. As presenter and interviewer, Hislop struck the perfect note of authority, conviction and humane interest: he also laughed at people's jokes, which was nice of him. Mary and Dora of Thaxted recollected the furore caused by their vicar hanging out the red flag in church; Cambridge undergraduates used to tear it down and burn it. Hislop giggled. They came back over so many times, they said, to Hislop's delight. "We used to look forward to it," they confided, "not a lot else going on."

Gillian Lacey's historical quest in *Picture This Album* (BBC2) was more singular than Ian Hislop's and a lot less useful. Having bought an Edwardian photograph album on a bookstall 20 years ago, she



Lynne Truss

always vaguely wondered who the people were. Who was "F.S.S." for example? And why did he keep posing beside animals he'd killed? For the purposes of this documentary, she set out to learn the identity and fate of the people in the pictures... and she did it. Mostly. And that's it.

The word "Huh?" hung above this pointless documentary, framed by frame. After all, it is not the

slightest surprise that the toffs in these photographs really existed, or that a few people still remember them. They lived and died, and they did not connect in any way with the maker of this film. Lacey became interested in Rosemary, whose album this appeared to be, so finally she found Rosemary's grave and Rosemary's old chauffeur. But Rosemary remained a stranger to her. Standing on the same spot as Rosemary - to take precisely the same side-view of a house, or a vista with church - had no significance. "I sense her loneliness stayed with her for life," said Lacey limply, at the end. "Really?" I thought. "So what?" There is an argument, of course, that if God cares for every little sparrow that falls, so should we. But we live in a tough, market economy in which people can zap to other channels, and *Album* needed a twist. Rosemary had to be Lacey's long-lost grandmother

— at least. Odd, too, that one of the most heavily accented clues — "I heard she was on the stage" — was repeatedly ignored.

The banality and witlessness of *Neverwhere* (BBC2) are becoming entertaining — a shocking state of affairs. In a daring experiment never before attempted by a television critic, I prepared myself for last night's second episode by consuming a small bottle of lager, which freed me up to laugh. The much-vaunted "Floating Market" in the London underworld was hilariously pathetic. "Looks like the Kensington Superstore in 1972," I sniggered tipily, and fell asleep. It goes without saying, incidentally, however bad the telly, don't try this at home. Finally, while the comic talent showcase format generally makes a deep Bong sound like a death-knell (whatever happened to the Pamela Stephenson Christmas

Show, eh? back on Channel 4. *Never Mind the Horrocks* was extremely funny and well produced. By a clever inspiration, Jane Horrocks did not appear in every sketch, thus giving the viewer a rare chance to relax. Being continually amazed at a performer's versatility can tax one's good will. Remember how Roy Castle used to get on our nerves tap-dancing and playing the trumpet? But the main innovation of *Never Mind the Horrocks* was the hiring of good writers. A sketch called "The Sixty Second Relationship" was a small classic, beautifully performed, meanwhile the only obvious isn't-it-versatile sketch entailed a woman having to be exorcised. "Roy's my family now Frank," she said, in a startlingly accurate Pat Butcher voice. She was possessed, you see. "She's possessed by the spirit of *East-Enders*," said her helper. "She hasn't smiled for nine years."

REVIEW

CHOICE

Leeds International Piano Competition BBC2, 6.30pm

With the live broadcasts of the Proms and the finals of this important piano competition, the BBC is spoiling the music lover. Taking up a good part of both tonight and tomorrow's BBC2 evening viewing, the six finalists of this 33rd year will play with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. The event will be broadcast live in conjunction with Radio 3 and introduced by Howard Goodall, the composer of television scores such as *Blackadder*, while celebrated leader accompanist Iain Burnside will provide commentary on the performances. Viewers will have a chance to cast their vote after Saturday night's concert. It will be interesting to see whether the public and the jury's choice will coincide.

Caroline in the City Channel 4, 9.00pm

The thinking behind this unremarkable comedy was, I suspect, that if it worked for Mary Taylor Moore in the 1970s, it should work for Lea Thompson in the 1990s. Thompson plays Caroline Duffy, a single, successful freelance cartoonist who lives in New York. Of course, she has a great apartment (all American sitcom folk, rich or poor, seem to live in great apartments), a sexy girlfriend (another prerequisite of the single girl sitcom), and a difficult love life (stop me if you have heard any of this before). In the pilot, Caroline breaks up with her boyfriend/employer because he has difficulty committing to "anything larger than a goldfish" and then proceeds to try to make him jealous. If you are looking for irony or innovation I should avoid the ensuing 24 episodes.

Friends Channel 4, 9.30pm

The *Friends* bandwagon continues to roll on whether or not you have hitched your viewing habits to it. Commanding huge salaries per episode, the six virtually unknowns have become something of a phenomenon in America, with stars queuing up for a chance to play cameo roles and capture a little of the *Friends* hip magic. A couple of weeks ago there was the celebrity-stuffed two-parter featuring the likes of Julia Roberts and Brooke Shields. In this episode, it is Tom Selleck. As Magnus, he played a hunky, mustachioed private investigator, a granddaddy and Monica's love interest. But no star guest can top this episode's real attraction — the much delayed consummation of Ross and Rachel's romance. It is a fittingly star occasion, albeit of the kind found in a planetarium.

Frasier Channel 4, 10.00pm

From the mediocre to the downright bad, we come to the creme de la creme of American comedies. Frasier continues to delight with its intelligence, freshness of character and its penchant for pin-pointing middle-class guilt. Frasier realises he has made no new friends in Seattle and tries to remedy the situation. Much to Nielsen's disgust, he ends up with a man named Bob of all things, whose interests include barbecues (friends call him Shiska-Bob) and tartan berets. Just when Frasier tries to disentangle himself from this mad bore he discovers Bob is in a wheelchair and a huge dose of liberal angst kicks in. The best line, for aficionados, is from Niles on his reluctance to go to the races: "It's the joke. Diminutive, underweight, figures in expensive silks wielding riding crops — reminds me too much of this estranged wife Maris".

Francis Lass

6.00am Open University: Healing the Spine (2026117) 6.25 Shropshire in the 16th Century (2038952) 6.50 The Church of Santa Maria del Miracolo, Venice (3544335)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (5417846) 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (1989136) 7.55 Cartoon Critics (i) (Ceefax) (2911372) 8.20 The Greedy Saurus Gang (i) (1721204) 8.25 Spider (i) (8137662) 8.35 Lassie (i) (2380846) 8.00 French Experiences (5302407) 9.15 Business Studies (1089611) 9.45 Watch (8402730) 10.00 Playdays (95846) 10.30 What? When? Where? Why? (5554204) 10.45 Revista (5559759) 11.00 Look and Read (3062907) 11.20 Short Circuit (549448) 11.40 English Time (3037848) 12.00 English Film (Ceefax) (92662) 12.30pm Working Lunch (20933) 1.00 Scene (Ceefax) (35852) 1.30 Technology Starters (4506409) 1.45 Words and Pictures (4505220) 2.00 The Greedy Saurus Gang (i) (8278839) 2.05 Spider (i) (9753420) 2.10 Open View (8478979)

2.15 Plied Cymru Conference. Dwydd Wylgyl's keynote speech (5511758) 3.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (7785488) 3.05 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational (s). Includes News at 3.55 (70896001)

6.05 The Munsters (b/w) (i) (Ceefax) (935440)

6.30 Leeds International Piano Competition (i) (404001)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to change and alteration

9.00 Bottom. The hapless duo decide to spend two weeks camping. Last in series (i) (Ceefax) (s) (2198)

9.30 Pulp Video. Fast-moving comedy sketch show from Scotland. Last in series (Ceefax) (s) (17469)

10.00 The Fall Guy. Danny Brown takes his revenge on practical jokes. Special guests this week are Felix Dexter, Hattie Hayridge and top chef Antony Worrall Thompson (Ceefax) (s) (93391)

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12.55 Weatherview (5323841)

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FOOTBALL 41

The day Dalglish finally brought himself to book

SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

TENNIS 42

Rusedski to open Britain's account in Davis Cup tie



Solheim Cup contest presents thrill of sporting combat in purest form

Europe united in victory quest

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

AT St Pierre, Chepstow, soon after breakfast this morning, the opening strokes will be played in one of the team events that have added enormous lustre to the game of golf these past few years and become such a compelling attraction. It was not just golfers who were bewitched and enthralled by the events of the Walker and Ryder Cups last September and the Curtis Cup at Killarney last June. It was those who follow sport.

Now it is the turn of the Solheim Cup between 12 women professionals from Europe and 12 from the United States, and the soundest advice for the initiated and uninitiated is to get across the Severn Bridge by hook or by crook for the start of the three-day competition. It is matchplay not strokeplay and hallelujah for that. Tickets are on sale at the gate.

This is as pure as professional sport can be. It is rare these days to see people who are paid to play sport giving

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such commitment to an event for which they receive no direct financial recompense. That is one of its appeals. Another is the sight of competitors who are normally accustomed to caring only for themselves uniting in pursuit of victory.

At stake is honour, the privilege of representing your country or continent and how each individual looks at it is indicative of their own cast of mind. For the home side's Dale Reid, and, one suspects, the Americans Dottie Pepper and Brandie Burton, it's simply a matter of winning. It does not matter whom the opponent is. "I enjoy beating anybody," Reid said. "I don't care whether they're Iraqi or Americans."

For Marie-Laure de Lorenzi the appeal is one that would gladden the hearts of Jean Monnet, the founder of the Common Market. "I don't think about winners and losers," the 35-year-old said. "I was born in France. I live in Spain, my heart is for Europe. I represent all Europe." She was asked whether she believed in a common currency? "Of course," she replied.



Trish Johnson, of Europe, raises her putter in salute after sinking a long putt on the 13th green during practice at St Pierre yesterday

The common currency that both teams seek is a win. Mickey Walker's chances of captaining a successful side for the second time were diminished when the teams were enlarged from the 10 who competed in 1994 to the 12 who will compete in four foursomes and four fourballs on each of the first two days and 12 singles on the third. It is agreed the Americans have greater depth; ergo, expanding the size of the teams gives them an edge.

Walker sees it as no more than a superiority on paper, however, not one that necessarily translates into a superiority on the course. "Everybody knows that match play is different from

strokeplay," she said. "In matchplay the mentality and psychology is different and Europe has already proved that rankings don't really matter much in matchplay situations." Much will depend on her own leadership skills and motivational powers.

Much will depend, too, on Laura Davies, Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann, who are respectively the first three players in the world rankings and expected to perform according to their status. Significantly, these three as well as Helen Alfredsson, Reid, Catrin Nilsmark, de Lorenzi and Alison Nicholas, who have competed in most of the matches, are included in this

TODAY'S DRAW

FOURSOMES
Europe players first
0800: A Sorenstam and C Nilsmark v K Robbins and M McGarr
0815: L Davies and A Nicholas v P Sheehan and R Jones
0830: M-L de Lorenzi and D Reid v B Daniel and V Surner
0845: H Alfredsson and L Neumann v D Pepper and B Burton

morning's opening foursomes when Walker has chosen to deal pairings filled with strength and experience.

The ace in Walker's hands is Davies, playing the best golf of her life. For all the spit-in-your-eye approach of Pepper and Burton, which makes them such formidable

matchplayers, there is no one in the United States team who can match Davies's length or ability if she is at her best. "She is incredible," Burton said of Davies. "She has taken the world by storm this year. She is obviously No 1 in the world right now."

Davies believes the match will be settled by putting. "I've never seen so many putts holed as we did at Dalmahoy," Davies said. "The Americans did the same at The Greenbrier. Putting will decide it." Judy Rankin, the United States captain, believes the weather will be influential, the malevolent wind that blew yesterday adding an extra dimension to the challenges posed by the 6,396-yard course.

Yet there is one more factor to be considered and that is the phenomenon that is Davies. At Dalmahoy four years ago, Davies and Nicholas were the first pair off and when Davies used her strength to reach the first green with a massive stroke with a driver from the sodden fairway, it set off a chain reaction that first brought her and Nicholas victory by one hole and continued to spread throughout her team until Europe had won 11½-6½ on Sunday evening.

There are 28 points at stake between two teams that each have three newcomers to this competition. Home advantage may be sufficient to tip matters Europe's way by a slender one point, 14½-13½.

Lee despairs at Bassett's late refusal

By David Maddock

TO LOSE one manager may be regarded a misfortune, but to lose two looks like carelessness in the extreme. After announcing on Wednesday evening that he had persuaded David Bassett to join his club, Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, had yesterday to admit that the man in charge at Crystal Palace has had a change of heart. George Graham has already turned the job down and Howard Kendall resisted an informal approach.

A month has passed since Alan Ball was sacked as manager — the fifth to depart Maine Road in five years. In the case of Bassett, and almost certainly Graham and Kendall too, the prospective manager spoke to those who went before him, and did not like what he heard.

Yesterday, the chairman was in defensive mood. "I don't interfere with managers, I've never heard so much bunkum in my life," Lee said. "Brian Horton and Alan Ball will tell you that. I do not even know what the team will be on match days and I would never dream of interfering."

Lee was angry and frustrated at the way in which he believes Bassett used the club after agreeing to take the job and then, within six hours, deciding that he had made a terrible mistake. The fact remains, however, that the search for a manager has reached farcical levels.

"Bassett rang and accepted the job, but then in the morning, at 7am, he rang to say he had changed his mind overnight," Lee said. "I'm telling you, I was on the point of buying a player he asked me to buy for him and now I will have to go away and make sure the deal is off."

"I am so devastated and frustrated, but nothing surprises me in football now. The search goes on, and we will have to leave the inquest until such a time as we resolved the current situation."

City, however, must reflect on Bassett's words yesterday. "I just feel this job is not right for me because we are developing a snarling young squad at Palace and I do not want to abandon the good work we have done," he said.

The inference is that such a scenario at Maine Road is some distance away. Under Lee, City have been relegated,

have a dispirited squad and are closer to the Nationwide League second division than the FA Carling Premiership. They are £19 million in debt and cannot attract a manager who does not even rank among the biggest names.

Lee's position is increasingly perilous and, with unrest within his boardroom, he has little time left to salvage the situation. Yesterday he hinted that he may have to swallow his pride and approach Bruce Rioch — a man he has described as an enemy on more than one occasion.

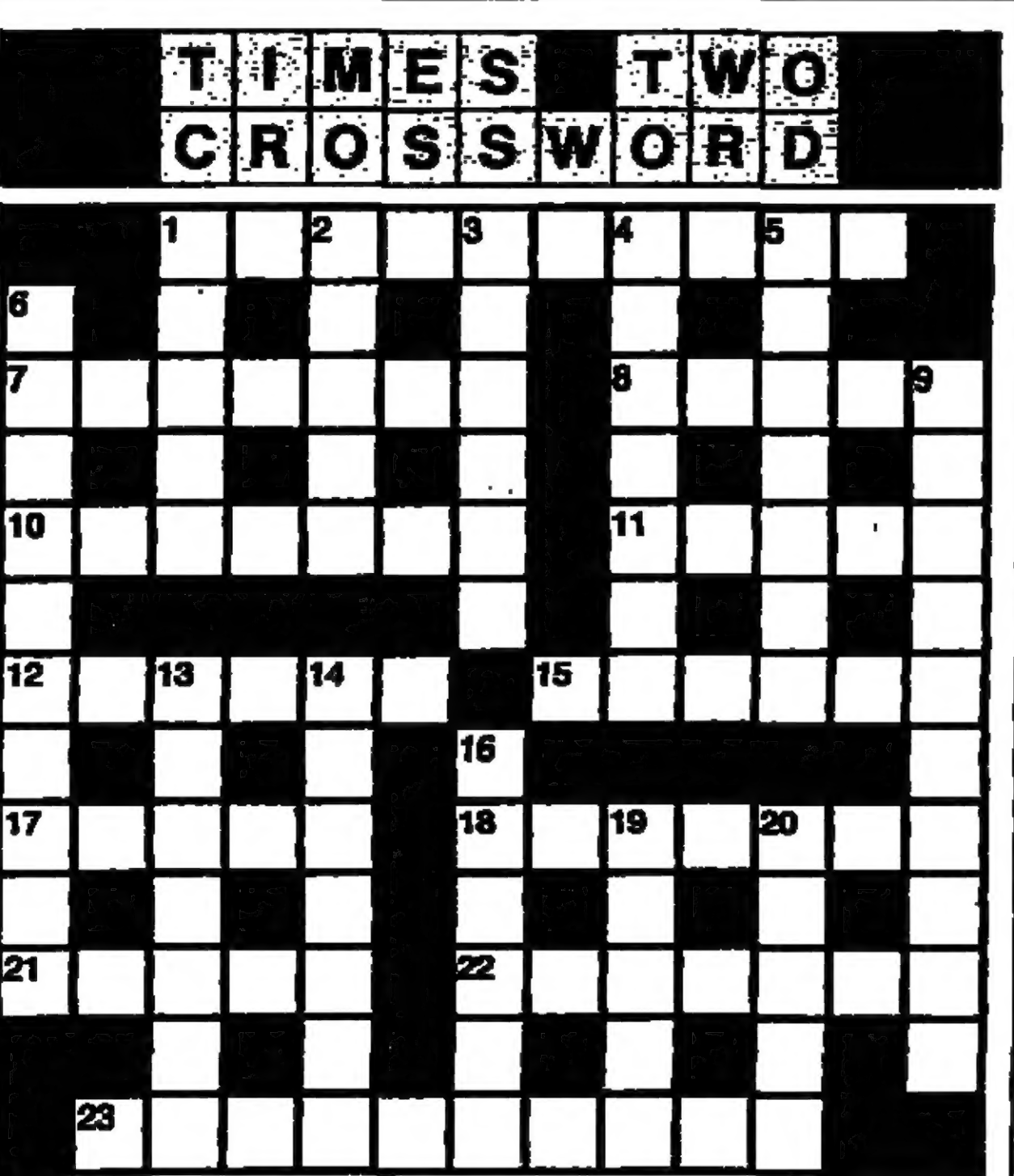
What is certain is that Lee must appoint a manager with genuine credentials. Otherwise, those supporters who declared him a saviour when he wrested control of the club from Peter Swales will conclude that he was really no more than a false messiah.



Bassett: change of heart

Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, returned from a scouting mission to Europe yesterday amid suggestions that he was on the verge of signing Oliver Bierhoff, the German international who plays in Italy with Udinese. But Harford insisted that he had in fact been in Spain, and that he was no closer to completing the transfer of the top class forward he so craves.

Graham, now the Leeds United manager, suggested yesterday that his first move in the transfer market may be to bring back Tomas Brolin, the forward who was loaned to FC Zurich after a disastrous spell at Leeds under former manager Howard Wilkinson. "I think I may have to get him in and have a look to see if he can help our current injury-hit situation," Graham said.



No 892

ACROSS

- 1 Overconfident (10)
- 7 One lamenting (7)
- 8 Identifying tag (5)
- 10 Travel bags (7)
- 11 Requested (5)
- 12 Pressed for information (6)
- 15 Of the hip girdle (6)
- 17 Small diagram inside another (5)
- 18 Maths, using alphabetic symbols (7)
- 21 Unoriginal (5)
- 22 US plain (7)
- 23 Thomas —, Wordsworth's marvellous boy (10)

DOWN

- 1 Held on tight (5)
- 2 Obsessive enthusiasm (5)
- 3 Pantry (6)
- 4 Miscellaneous-assembly art form (7)
- 5 Vladimir —, Lolita author (7)
- 6 Contract terms risky if unread (5,5)
- 9 Virgin-dedicated cathedral area (4,6)
- 13 Religious saviour (7)
- 14 Earnestly beg (7)
- 16 One for sorrow bird (6)
- 19 Enormous (person) (5)
- 20 A lord; a cut of beef (5)

The solution to 891 will be published Wednesday, September 25

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Leicestershire close in on title

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (first day of four: Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Middlesex

IT MAY be stretching a point to say that Leicestershire has waited anxiously for the revival of its county side, or that the city turned out in force to acclaim it, but Grace Road did have an unaccustomed air of buzz and buoyancy yesterday. There were 2,000 present to see James Whitaker's side close in on the county championship and, despite a truncated day, they were not disappointed.

While Leicestershire were bowling out Middlesex for 190 to claim maximum bowling points, their only remaining rivals were treading water. Kent were dismissed for 154 at Bristol and are now virtually eliminated; rain prevented Surrey from making a start at the Oval.

It was, in many ways, a

routine day at the office for Leicestershire. The pitch had some variable bounce, the admirable quintet of seam bowlers shared all the wickets and some spectacular slip catches were held. That Middlesex made more than seemed likely after declining to 76 for six was due almost entirely to a three-hour innings by Mark Ramprakash.

Raymond Illingworth was on hand to cast an affectionate eye over the place that he ruled so masterfully during the 1970s and, for all the striking improvements in seating and practice facilities, he will have felt that some things had not changed. The hangar-like eyesore known as The Meet still casts a shadow and among the flat-capped and rugged crowd on a blustery day stood an unabashed cheerleader.

In Illingworth's day, this role was played by an elderly gentleman known to all as the Foghorn, for the fact that he would loudly announce his arrival by bellowing the first of his exhortations from outside the gates. Since his passing, the vacancy has evidently been filled by an unmissable character named Lewis — black, incorrigibly noisy, dressed in Sunday league shirt and ready to greet each wicket with a dance.

Lewis dropped reverentially to his knees amid an animated crowd gathered round the dressing-room area to cheer Leicestershire from the field at 3.15pm. Although the first part

of their assignment was complete, however, Whitaker will have had a nagging feeling that Middlesex had made too many.

They can have chosen to bat only because they had three spin bowlers in the side and, with six wickets down at lunch, it was not looking a clever move; but the bounce could remain uneven throughout this game. Given clear weather, which is not predicted, it would be unlikely to require a fourth day.

Millns began by needlessly confronting Weekes, head to head, after his third ball of the game had produced a rejected appeal. He soon had his man, caught at third slip, but the incisive spell came from Mullyally at the other end. He struck three consecutive batsmen on the helmet and took the next three wickets, including those of Gatting and Shah.

Simmons, by now, had hobbled off the field with a twisted ankle but, strong as an ox, returned within half-an-hour, instantly swooping to his right for a one-handed slip catch as Wells took two wickets in his first over. Ramprakash played in a shrewd, block-or-bash style. Dropped at the wicket on 26, he interspersed correct defence with unceremonious treatment of anything loose.

When Leicestershire began their reply, Wells suffered a rare failure, edging a good one from Fay. There was to be no further progress after tea for the champions-in-waiting.

Photograph, scoreboard 40
Wells foils Kent 40
117.876 not out 20

Hill offers hint of ruthless streak

From Oliver Holt
IN ESTORIL

LIKE the Spanish Americans and the Germans that Bob Dylan wrote about, Damon Hill believes, too, now that he has God on his side. More than that, he has a points advantage over Jacques Villeneuve, his Formula One world drivers' championship rival, and he hinted, when he arrived here yesterday, that, his new religious backing notwithstanding, he might be prepared to use force to preserve it.

Hill crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza a fortnight ago on only the sixth lap, but still maintained his 13-point championship lead over Villeneuve, his Canadian Williams-Renault team-mate,

because of Villeneuve's own misfortunes in a race eventually won by the Ferrari of Michael Schumacher. "If I learnt anything from Monza," Hill joked yesterday, "it is that God is truly on the side of Ferrari and he also wants me to win the championship. For me to knock myself out of the race and not lose any points was something of a miracle."

Hill, who is rumoured to be on the verge of signing for Jordan, can now afford to finish the Portuguese Grand Prix here on Sunday in a position that brings him three fewer points than his rival and still clinch his first world drivers' title. That situation led to him being pressed, yesterday, over whether he would be prepared to barge Villeneuve off the track if push came to shove.

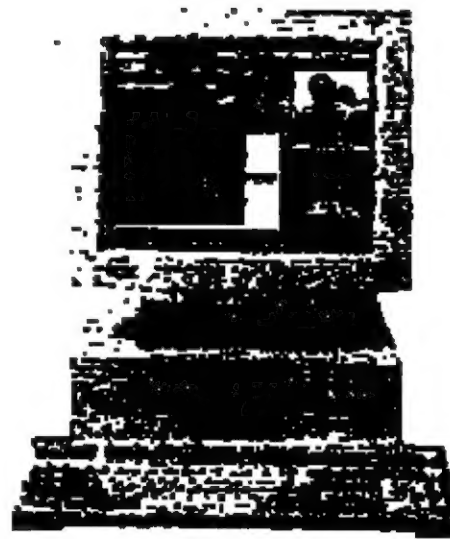
Hill made all the right noises about sportsmanship and winning on merit, but also refused to discount getting rough with Villeneuve if he was provoked. His studied ambiguity created a flurry of excitement.

"I aim to get pole position, lead into the first corner and not see another soul for the rest of the race," Hill said. "There are all sorts of views about how drivers should conduct themselves, but I do not have any ambitions to be involved in any sort of questionable tactics. If I am in the lead, I will defend it vigorously, but I do not want to resort to unfair tactics. I believe I can win the race cleanly."

"So you would not deliberately take Jacques off, then," someone asked. "Wouldn't I?" Hill said.

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